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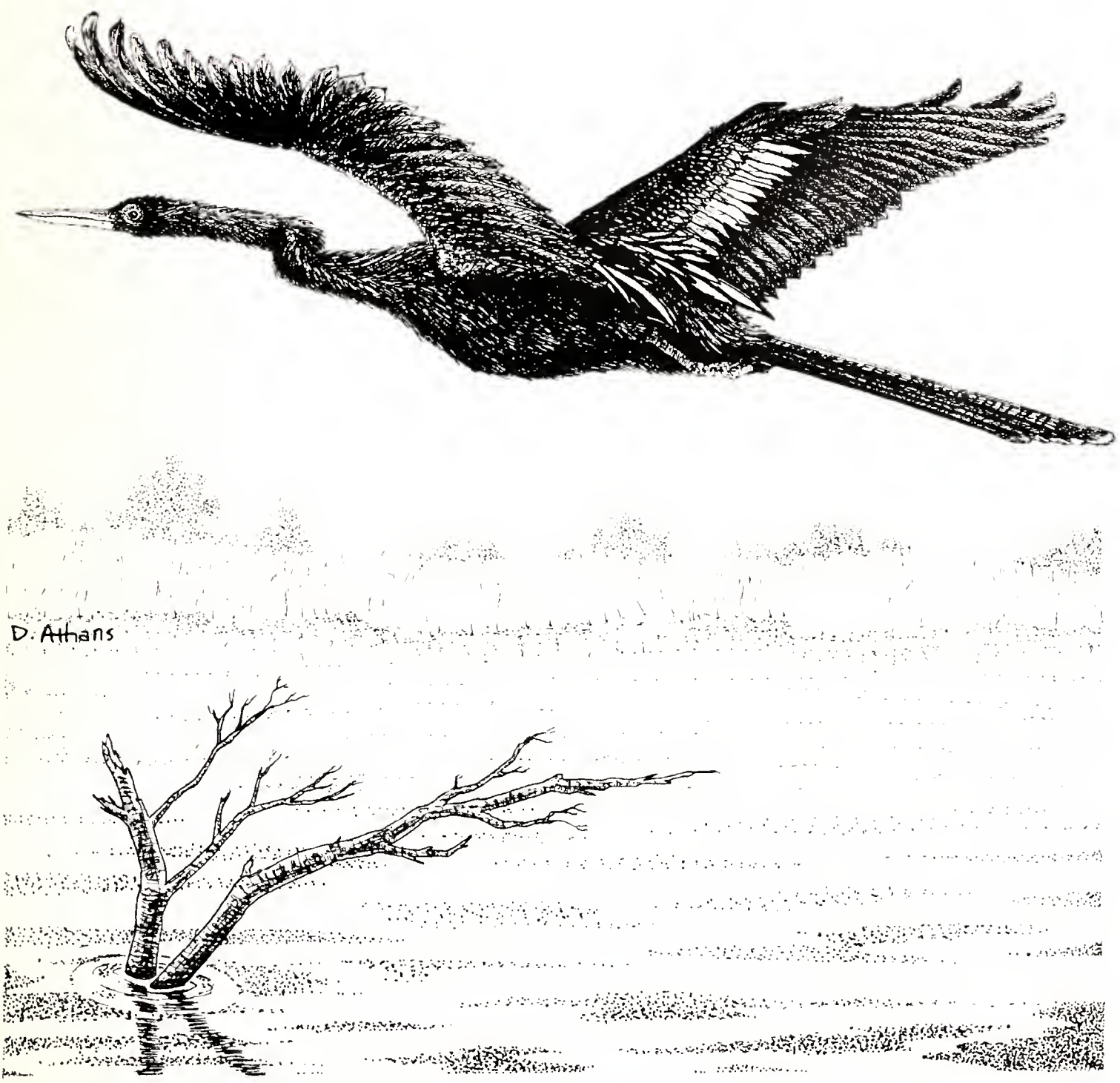

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President's Message

For the past few weeks my life-outside-of-birding (does such a thing exist?) got very busy, took over my daily schedule, and left me precious little time to grab my binoculars and head into the field. Withdrawal symptoms set in, staved off only by an occasional brief foray on what seemed like borrowed time. I grew anxious for the feather quest, for an immersion into the world of birding. How could life go on without a chance to bird?

My survival strategy was to make the most of what I call "contact birding." That's the term I use for the bird watching that happens when you aren't out intentionally birding. You go out and about on some other business and, whether by good luck alone or perhaps simply by paying attention, you come into contact with some birds.

I was skeptical that any contact birding would present itself here in the middle of Chicago in late winter. The prospects seemed grim without a few hours to spend at the lake front, a few hours I did not have. But opportunities did arise.

Some were humble. While standing in frigid cold, waiting for an el train to take me downtown, I watched a fellow rider toss peanuts to the House Sparrows on the platform. The birds bounced about, each following his or her strategy for snagging a share of welcome loot. Several folks on the platform watched with me, and made comments on the evident differences in each bird's individual personality. Some were bold, some sneaky, but all were fluffed up against the cold, even covering their legs with their feathers.

Other opportunities were less mundane. While shoveling snow and chipping ice off the walk in back of the house, some desperate squeaking from up above caught my attention. There on a neighboring roof top one of the local kestrels had caught herself a meal and was dispatching her prey. My upstairs neighbor was with me and I pointed the falcon out to her. We put our snow shovels aside to watch. Betsy commented how this kestrel looked a different color from the one my wife and I pointed out to her a month before. And so she learned about the sexual dimorphism in kestrels.

These bits and pieces of contact birding may not be much, but they serve to remind me that there really is no life-outside-of-birding. Bird life goes on and on, waiting to be observed, wherever and whenever.

— Geoffrey A. Williamson

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Letter from the Editor

The Art of Zen Birding

Perhaps you'd prefer not getting philosophical about birds — you'd rather be birding. But I've decided to wax philosophic about birds for a moment. Now seems an appropriate time considering the Sept. 11 tragedies, economic woes and the way we Americans so easily fall into the societal traps of doing much, too much, and then not even remembering what we did.

Even when we bird, we're running around. Have to get that bird. Have to get that lifer. Don't have that on my year list yet. Hey, he's got 314 on his Illinois list — better go get another one so he doesn't catch up.

Yes, it's fun getting lifers and keeping lists. And I'm not trying to spoil your good time.

But have you ever gone birding with absolutely no agenda? Call it "Zen" birding or "living-in-the-moment" birding.

Take a walk in the woods without any preconceived notions of what you had better or should see while you are there or what someone else saw that you had better not miss. Is there a White-breasted Nuthatch calling? Find it. Watch it. Revel in the fact that this is a creature with wings and it can fly without the aid of human technology. Consider this: avian species were plying the skies long before Homo sapiens entered the scene.

Look at the color of the nuthatch's head. What does it remind you of? A navy blue dress you wore as a girl? Look at the bird's undertail coverts. Feast on that rich, warm, startling, brownish red, which reminds me of a crayon I once had called burnt sienna.

Look at the thin, rather lengthy bill and how it slightly curves upward and gets ever so slightly thinner at the end. Have you ever noticed that before?

Watch how the bird slides down the tree bark moving its head jerkily, intent only on finding food and avoiding predators.

Just for a moment forget you're a birder and remember that you're a human, endowed with the incredible ability to find birds to watch.

— *Sheryl De Vore*, sdevore@voyager.net

MEADOWLARK

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About our cover

David J. Athans created the cover art depicting an Anhinga, which was seen near Pere Marquette State Park in Jersey County during the Illinois Ornithological Society's Annual Meeting in May 2001. See seasonal highlights for details on this bird.

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First Illinois Record of the Brown-headed Nuthatch

by Brad Semel

Wednesday, 11 July 2001. 3:45pm. I am on my knees in a narrow wetland swale in the south unit of Illinois Beach State Park, Lake County, Illinois. The location is south of the Dead River in a rare wetland community where we are recording the distribution and abundance of state-listed endangered and threatened plants and evaluating the imminent threat to this globally significant plant community by invasive, exotic plants and altered hydrology.

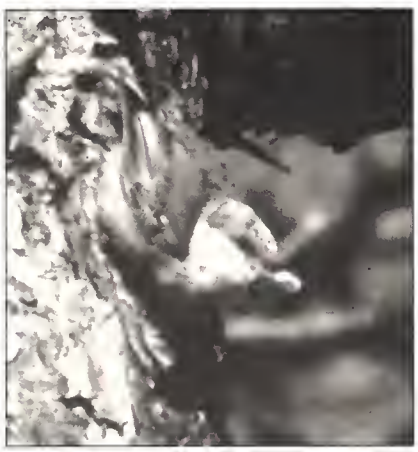
A brief series of unfamiliar, "chee-chee-chee" calls catch my attention. Later, it would be better described as resembling a "squeaky toy." When I look up, I see a small bird of just over 4 inches gleaning the terminal branch of a Scotch pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). The bird is about 50 feet away and in the shadows of the pine bough. The foraging behavior suggests a nuthatch, but the vocalizations and the uniform gray plumage of the back do not match that of the commonly occurring White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*). When I stand to approach the bird and obtain a better angle, the bird moves to the bole of the tree and begins working vertically upward. The position of the bird now affords me a view of the head and its distinctive chocolate brown plumage.

The foraging behavior and head coloration encompass the possibility of a Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*), but the plumage on the wings and back is not correct. The white underparts eliminate the Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*). Could this be an immature displaying an unfamiliar plumage? I walk swiftly to my backpack and binoculars. Quite unexpectedly, the bird flies directly at me, landing at the terminal end of a pine bough about 35 feet from where I am standing and about 12 feet from the ground. The late afternoon sun is coming from about 2° to the west of the bird, providing vivid colors of the plumage. The most distinctive characteristics noted through binoculars are its dark eye plumage (resembling a black dot), the chocolate-brown cap, and an hour-glass white marking on the nape of the neck. It is clearly a surprising find; a Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*).

I have no reference books with me (other than "Plants of the Chicago Region"), so I quickly sketch the bird, noting such characteristics as the turquoise lower mandible, black eye plumage (no stripe or eye ring), chocolate cap, hour-glass white marking on the nape, rufous brown primaries, white breast with a slight buff or off-white under the throat, equal length of the primary and tail, and its distinctive twittering "chee, chee, chee" call that sounded nothing like that of the other nuthatches inhabiting the region. I watch the bird for another 20 minutes.

An hour later, at the car, field guides are consulted, including Stokes & Stokes (1996) and Robbins et al (1966). The photograph depicted in Stokes & Stokes (1996) was convincing. This was indeed a Brown-headed Nuthatch. The next morning, other reference books were consulted, including Kaufman (2000) and Sibley (2000). It wasn't until Bohlen (1989) was consulted, however, that I realized the true significance of this find. It was a new state record.

Now the dilemma. As described earlier, the area in which the bird was found is one of the most ecologically sensitive places in the park. Indeed, due to the sensitive nature of the area, it is closed to public access. Therefore, I contacted Bill Wengelewski, Site Naturalist for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, to see if he could help verify the species and to discuss options for making public this discovery in light of the phenology of the plant communities on site. We made a perusal of the area the afternoon of 12 July, but were not able to relocate the bird. The next morning, David B. Johnson and Danny Diaz accompanied me to the site to assist with verification. The bird gave its distinctive call note at 6:30a.m., an hour after our search had commenced. The bird was perched in a pine tree about 20 feet above the ground. It did little feeding, but was rather intent on preening.



Brown-headed Nuthatch. Illinois Beach State Park, Lake County. First state record. Photo taken 13 July 2001 by David B. Johnson. The bird arrived 11 July 2001 and was still seen in December.

The lighting of the early morning presented a considerably different appearance of the bird than the previous observations I had made: the brown cap and gray plumage seemed to be distinctively paler. All three of us photographed and observed the bird at close range until we departed at 8:05 a.m. Danny Diaz mentioned the tree in which we left the bird that day was the one in which late last year the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), another recent addition to the state's avifauna, had often roosted (Sweet 2001).

It is interesting to note that the Brown-headed Nuthatch and Red-cockaded Woodpecker have nearly identical distribution maps, both preferring stands of mature pines in which to forage. The Red-cockaded Woodpecker was present at Illinois Beach State Park during the fall and winter of 2000. Because plants were in senescence and had set seed by this time, human disturbance was not a critical issue when considering whether to allow birders to view this rare species. The Brown-headed Nuthatch, however, was discovered during a time when most of the state-listed endangered and threatened plants were in bloom or had just set seed. A single footprint could have obliterated a years reproductive effort. After careful consideration, notice of the bird was posted on Illinois bird list serve, IBET, so that others interested in viewing the bird could have the opportunity. The number of permits for access was restricted and permit holders were required to accompany selected leaders who were advised to carefully guide participants, and to direct them from the most sensitive areas.

By the second week after initially confirming the Brown-headed Nuthatch, more than 60 people had the opportunity to observe the bird. As of press time, hundreds of birders had seen the species, and confirmed sightings were still being reported during the winter season. In fact, the nuthatch was documented on the Illinois 2001 Christmas Bird Count.

Withgott and Smith (1998) list no documentation of death by exposure to the elements; it will be interesting to learn whether this bird survives the Illinois winter. As of this writing, Illinois was experiencing an unusually mild winter. Perhaps a more serious threat than winter conditions is the possibility of avian predation. At least one observer of the Illinois bird noted a Sharp-shinned Hawk chasing the bird during fall migration (personal communication S. Bailey). Withgott and Smith (1998) noted there are no published accounts of predation on adult Brown-headed Nuthatches.

Status and distribution

Though neither threatened nor endangered, the Brown-headed

Nuthatch is on the National WatchList of North American bird species. Birds on this list face population decline due to threats such as habitat loss on their breeding and wintering grounds. The WatchList focuses attention on at-risk bird species before they become endangered, and is compiled yearly by Partners in Flight, a coalition of state, federal, and private sector conservationists working to protect the birds of the western hemisphere.

The Brown-headed Nuthatch is found throughout the southeastern United States and is almost exclusively associated with stands of mature pines throughout its historic range (Withgott and Smith 1998). Interestingly, Illinois Beach State Park contains a rather large stand of Scotch (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Austrian pines (*Pinus nigra*), which, though not native, provide similar habitat structure.

The northern range of the Brown-headed Nuthatch runs through northeastern Texas, middle Tennessee, and eastward into far southern Pennsylvania. The bird historically nested as close as western Tennessee (Jackson 1988) and southeast Missouri (Robbins and Easterla 1992). Bohlen (1989) lists this species as "hypothetical" in Illinois, with the only reported observation mentioned in a letter (written by E.S. Currier) as two individuals seen in Hancock County in 1893. He further states that "since there is some dispersal of this small nuthatch, more records from Illinois are not out of the question, although it is hoped that they will be better documented."

According to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithologys web site, "there is very little post-breeding dispersal in this species; once an individual establishes a breeding territory with a mate, it remains on that territory for many years, sometimes for its entire life. There is no information on juvenile dispersal, but fledglings remain with their parents throughout the fall and winter. Family flocks may join and forage with other families or with mixed-species flocks containing woodpeckers, kinglets, titmice, and warblers." A natural stochastic event such as a large forest fire, sustained drought, or total crop failure often forces bird species to make much larger movements than normal. See Withgott and Smith (1998). Mature pine forest habitat is seriously threatened throughout the range of this species, and is the primary reason the Brown-headed Nuthatch is imperiled.

Other extralimital records

Specimens of the Brown-headed Nuthatch have been collected in the eastern United State near Elmira, New York, 24 May 1888 (Bull 1974), near Boyertown, Pennsylvania, 6 September 1894 (Santner et al 1992), and Haddonfield, New Jersey in 1876 (Leck 1984). Four additional observations from Pennsylvania, most recently 12 August 1903, also have been reported (Santner et al 1992).

In the Midwest, one bird was photographed visiting a feeder in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from 1971 November through 1972 January (Robbins 1991). A brown-headed Nuthatch was also reported from 26 February to 19 April 2000 in Milwaukee County. (See The Passenger Pigeon 62:326.) Other Midwest records have included Indiana (Mumford and Keller 1984) and Ohio (personal communication Victor Fazio). Linda Gilbert identified a Brown-headed Nuthatch at her feeder in Geaga County, Ohio, 11 November 2001. She welcomed many Ohio birders who added the bird to their lists. The Brown-headed Nuthatch was still present at the Gilbert feeder as of 15 January 2002 (personal communication Victor Fazio). Victor Fazio watched the bird uplifting wood chips at the edge of a frozen pond, and gleaning the adjacent lawn sculpture, presumably looking for arthropods. "Linda Gilbert has identified some arthropods in the vicinity, possibly thrips, that are available to the nuthatch, he said.

According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithologys web site, Brown-headed Nuthatches "are acrobatic foragers, hopping and hitching along the branches of trees, often upside down. They forage mostly at the tips of treetops and near the tips of branches, looking for insects, spiders, and larvae hidden within the clusters of pine needles. In winter, their diet consists mainly of pine seeds. These nuthatches do not cache large quantities of food, but they may store some seeds under the bark of pine trees... The Brown-headed Nuthatch is the only North American bird observed to regularly use a tool while foraging. Grasping a piece of bark in its bill, the Brown-headed Nuthatch pries up tree bark to expose prey hidden underneath. The nuthatch usually drops the tool after one use, but sometimes it will use the same tool repeatedly and carry it to other trees."

Final note on identification

The Pygmy Nuthatch (*Sitta pygmaea*) and the Brown-headed Nuthatch are nearly identically in appearance, and differ mainly in voice. Sibley (2000) shows the Pygmy to have a grayer cap, buffier flanks and less white on the primary edges than the Brown-headed Nuthatch. Their ranges do not overlap (Sibley 2000). Any bird out of range should be studied carefully. A Pygmy Nuthatch was documented in Iowa 30 October 2000; the observer noted a grayish cap bordered by an indistinct darker line through the eye, and also some white on the tail corners (Kenne 2001). The Pygmy Nuthatch gave clear "peet" calls and none of its vocalizations sound like those of the Brown-headed Nuthatch. The Illinois Beach State Park Brown-headed Nuthatch was identified not only by sight, but also by its own distinct vocalizations, most often a rapid series of notes described as the "serial vocalization" by Withgott and Smith (1998).

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Sheryl De Vore for her editorial comments on this manuscript, and for including much additional information on the distribution and status of this species. I also would like to thank Danny Diaz and David Johnson for assistance in verifying my initial observations. Lastly, special thanks to Bill Wengelewski and the Illinois Beach State Park staff for their efforts to protect the fragile ecosystem of Illinois Beach State Park, while allowing others to enjoy the excitement of watching this most remarkable bird.

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The History and Status of Jaeger Migration in Illinois

by Steven D. Bailey

Early ornithologists present a rather confusing account of jaeger status in Illinois. Ridgway (1881, 1895), Woodruff (1907), and Gault (1922) list few records for any jaegers, with the few noted apparently being based mainly upon a few sightings by Nelson from 1876. From these sightings, all three jaegers were considered winter visitants only, with Ridgway (1895) stating for Pomarine Jaeger "doubtless visits Lake Michigan in winter."

Pre-1950 records for any jaeger species in Illinois are few and far between. Ford (1956) summarizes all apparent records from the Chicago region before 1950. These include two records (2 birds) for Pomarine Jaeger *(Sterocorarius pomarinus)* and five plus records of a minimum of 13 Parasitic Jaegers *(S. parasiticus)*, including 3 specimens. There apparently was a good "flight at Chicago where seven were seen in one day...from Oct. 19, 1949 to the end of Nov."

By the mid 1950s, jaegers were apparently known as "casual visitors" at best (Ford 1956), but beginning about 1955, some bellwethers in jaeger observation appeared. Raymond Grow and Jim Landing were two of these observers, although most sightings initially came from nearby places in Indiana at the southern tip of Lake Michigan near Gary (at Miller Beach) where an ornithologist named Herbert Stoddard had done some earlier collecting of jaegers. Following some exceptional flight years, Landing (1966) summarized his sightings, but also see Mlodinow (1984).

Unfortunately, it would be more than a decade before jaeger observations became a regular part of the state's ornithological records. In fact, between 1950 and 1969, there were only three years when any reports of jaegers in Illinois were published, even though in the fall of 1951 "many observers" in the Chicago area saw jaegers, all thought to be Parasitic, migrating along the Lake Michigan shore (Nolan 1952). Other than that record and Ford's, the only published accounts of jaegers for the state prior to 1969 were 1 juvenile Parasitic, 22 September 1960 (Eiseman and Shank 1962), 1 Pomarine and 10 unidentified jaeger species at Chicago in the fall of 1966 (Petersen 1967), and "several jaegers, including one Pomarine and one Parasitic" at Chicago in the fall of 1967 (Petersen 1968). Apparently, the large flights occurring just across the Indiana border did not extend around the south end of the lakefront into Chicago in 1956, 1957, and 1965.

Jaegers have been seen and reported in Illinois every single year from 1970 through 2001 (see Table 1). Between 1970 and 1973, 18 jaegers (9 Parasitic, 9 unknown) were tallied, including some of the first downstate records in years (see Bohlen 1989), at Lake Chautauqua. Beginning in 1974, with Kleen's mimeographed Illinois Department of Conservation Seasonal Reports, records (for all bird species) were solicited in a more regular and orderly fashion than in previous years. Although most of these birds were reported to the national publication "American Birds," more detail and sometimes additional records can be found in the seasonal reports by Kleen from 1974 through 1984 and later in "Illinois Birds & Birding" from 1985 through 1991.

Immature Long-tailed Jaeger. 13 September 2000. Lake Chautauqua, Havana, Illinois. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Much of my summary of jaeger records begins with the last 27 years of recordings, beginning in 1974 with Kleen's seasonal reports. These reports initiated the first real attempt at soliciting documentation of some of the rare or difficult-to-identify species in the state, including all the jaegers. Unfortunately, most jaeger sightings, including all Parasitic sightings, especially along the Chicago lakefront, continued to be accepted at face value until 1996.

Beginning with the first report of the newly formed Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC), a review list of bird species was compiled, which included a request for all three jaeger species to be documented, everywhere within the state (see Goetz and Robinson 1988). However many records continued to be accepted from "experienced" observers until 1996 when only documented records of immature jaegers were accepted (see Chapel 1997, 1998). All data within this paper reflect the most recent decisions, both published and unpublished, by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee. A few older records still await review; the observers' identifications are used in these instances. This decision makes sense, since virtually all jaeger records before at least 1974 were accepted at face value by earlier authors (see Ford 1956, Mlodinow 1984, Bohlen 1989).

Misidentifications

Very few jaeger records before the early 1970s came with any real evidence to support an accurate identification to

species, save for a few specimens. The challenges and pitfalls in identifying the many confusing plumages of the three species of jaegers found in Illinois, especially juveniles, can be found throughout the literature (Lee 1989, Olsen 1989, Kaufman 1990, McGeehan 1995, Sherony and Brock 1997, and Wiley and Lee 1998, 1999). It is beyond the scope of this paper to discuss the fine points of jaeger identification, plumage, and structural and behavioral differences. Many other authors have adeptly covered these points, including Cramp (1983), Olsen (1989), Olsen and Larsson (1997), Sherony and Brock (1997), and Wiley and Lee (1998, 1999). Many of the early North American ornithologists have misidentified species even with specimen in hand (Lee 1989). In fact, Illinois' "first" Long-tailed Jaeger *(Stercorarius longicaudus)* record, a specimen from southern Illinois, was recently reviewed by members of IORC. They reached a split, no-decision vote (Stotz 2001). Misidentifications continue today even for birds viewed under excellent conditions. Such examples include when a number of Illinois' most experienced birders recently identified a Long-tailed Jaeger as a Parasitic (Kassebaum 2001) and a Parasitic Jaeger as a Pomarine (Bailey 2001). Some of these observers had a fair amount of experience with jaegers especially along Lake Michigan, where at least Parasitics are regular. Unfortunately, many birds continue not to be documented. If we are ever to straighten out the true picture of jaeger migration in Illinois, thorough documentation, including photographs when possible, needs to be made for every jaeger, especially juveniles, regardless of location. Although Parasitics are likely the most common jaeger migrating through the state, at least on Lake Michigan, Long- taileds might also be more common than records indicate (see Lee 1989 and Sherony and Brock 1997).

Ninety percent of the identified Great Lakes jaeger records compiled by Sherony and Brock (1997) were Parasitics. This picture holds true for Illinois alone as well. Of 98 Illinois birds identified to species along the Lake Michigan shoreline, 94.1 percent were Parasitics. Sherony and Brock analyzed records for a 20-year period, apparently from 1976 to 1996, although this is not exactly clear. From records for all jaegers that I gathered from published sources, as well as a few unpublished records supplied by Kevin Richmond and Jim Landing, a total of 206 jaegers have been seen throughout Illinois between 1974 and 2000. Of the 100 identified to species, 77 were Parasitic, 21 were Pomarine, and 2 were Long-tailed. However, if the other 106 jaeger species are added into the total of 206 birds detected since 1974, the percentage of Parasities drops substantially to 37.3 percent, with the percentage of Pomarines dropping to 10.1 percent and Long-tailed to 0.9 percent, and jaeger species, composing 51.4 percent of the total. Many of these jaeger species are likely mostly Parasitic Jaegers, and most, if not all, are difficult-to-identify juveniles.

In a larger sample size, Brock (unpublished data) shows similar percentages for all jaegers observed along the Indiana

Table 1. *Summary of 206* Illinois jaeger records 1974-2000.*

	Parasitic		Pomarine		Jaeger Sp.	
Year	**Chicago**	**Downstate**	**Chicago**	**Downstate**	**Chicago**	**Downstate**
1974	8u		1u		4u	
1975	8u					
1976	1u					
1977	3u				3u	
1978	2u		1u		2u	
1979	1ad			1u	1u	
1980	1ad				1u	
1981					2u	1subad
1982				2u	2u	4(1juv,3u)
1983			1a		2u	1u
1984					1u	2(1juv,1u)
1985	5(2juv,3u)	2(1juv,1u)		3(1juv,2u)	4(3juv,1u)	
1986	12(7ad,5juv)	1juv			9(1juv,8u)	
1987	1juv			1u	1u	1u
1988	2ad	2juv		3(1juv,2u)	1u	1u
1989	2u					
1990	2u				1u	
1991	10(5ad,2juv,3u)	2u		2juv	3(1juv,2u)	2u
1992	1u				1u	
1993	3u				5(4juv,1u)	
1994						2(1juv,1u)
1995		2(1a,1juv)				2juv
1996				3(2juv,1u)	8(3a,1juv,4u)	8(4juv,4u)
1997	2ad		1juv		9(1ad,1juv,7u)	1juv
1998		1subad			1ad	1u
1999	1u			1juv	6(1ad,1juv,4u)	4(2juv,2u)
2000		2(1juv,1u)		1juv	9(1ad,4juv,4u)	
TOTALS	**65** (18ad,10juv,37u)	**12** (1ad,1subad,6juv,4u)	**4** (1ad,1juv,2u)	**17** (8juv,9u)	**76** (7ad,16juv,53u)	**30** (1subad, 12juv,17u)

Total Parasitic Chicago and Downstate: 77 (19ad, 1subad, 16juv, 41u)
Total Pomarine Chicago and Downstate: 21 (1ad, 9juv, 11u)
Total Jaeger Sp. Chicago and Downstate: 106 (7ad, 1subad, 28juv, 70u)

Key: ad = adult, subad = subadult, juv = juvenile, u = unknown age
* includes 2 accepted Long-tailed Jaeger records.

portion of the Lake Michigan shoreline, most within 30 miles of Chicago. Of 230 jaegers identified to species there, 183 (79.6 %) were Parasitics, while only 33 (14.3 %) were Pomarines. These data also include a very large number of unidentified jagers (546). It is probably safe to conclude that at least 75 % of all jaegers passing through the Midwest in any given fall are Parasitics.

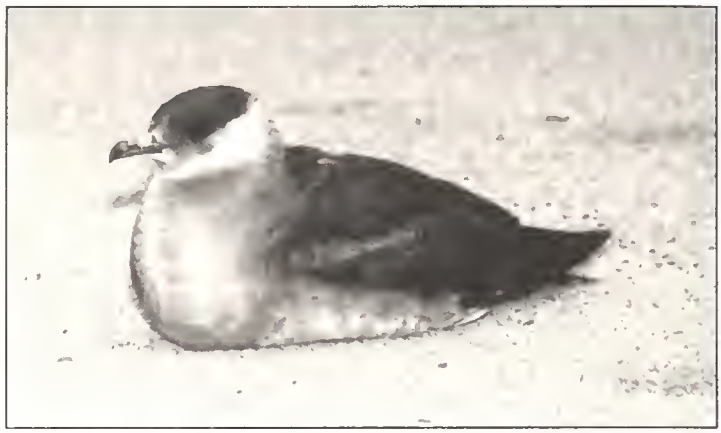
However, the picture may be different away from Lake Michigan, (and the other Great Lakes?), at least in Illinois. A more interesting picture unfolds if the numbers and percentages of Chicago area birds are compared with the records for downstate or "inland" jaegers. (Of the 144 Chicago area jaeger records, all are from the Lake Michigan shoreline except for one bird at Lake Calumet, which is less than five miles from the lakefront, and another at Greene Valley Forest Preserve, approximately 26 to 28 miles from Lake Michigan.) Of the 31 jaegers identified to species downstate, 54.8 percent (17 of 31) are Pomarine, with Parasitic making up only 38.7 percent (12 of 31), and Long-tailed, 6.4 percent (2 of 31). If the 30 unidentified jaegers (total = 61 birds) are added to the mix, only 27.8 percent are Pomarine, 49.1 percent are jaeger species, 19.6 percent are Parasitic, and 3.2 percent are Long-tailed.

In contrast, only 5.7 percent (4 of 69) of the jaegers identified to species along Lake Michigan (since 1974) are Pomarines. Parasitics make up 94.2 percent (65 of 69) of Lake Michigan/Chicago area jaegers identified to species. In addition, there are two accepted records and three unaccepted/questionable records for Long-tailed Jaeger (see Bailey 2001), all from downstate. Although some Long-taileds are likely going undetected on Lake Michigan (especially in Illinois), when comparing downstate with Lake Michigan records for all three jaeger species, a clear dichotomy exists between numbers of Pomarine vs. Parasitic Jaegers. The various data sets noted above clearly show this dichotomy between the Great Lakes in general (and Lake Michigan in particular) versus "inland" records.

Little changes with the addition of historical records. I was able to find 80 specific jaeger records in the published record for the period 1876 to 1973, making Illinois' all-time jaeger record total 286 birds. At least a few other jaegers were mentioned but no specific numbers, dates, or locations were given. The first person to mention jaeger occurrence in Illinois was Nelson (1876). I was able to find 58 specific jaeger records (42 Parasitic, 5 Pomarine, 1 Long-tailed, and 10 jaeger sp.) in Illinois between 1876 and 1967. Only two of these birds were aged; one juvenile Parasitic and one adult Pomarine. I found 22 additional records from 1970 to 1973, including 13 Parasitic (7 adult, 1 juvenile, 5 unknown) and 9 jaeger sp., all unknown. While most jaegers migrating through Illinois will be juveniles, as in other Midwest regions (Sherony and Brock 1997, Sherony 1999), both observers and seasonal field notes editors should report ages of all recorded jaegers when known. This kind of information is important for a still-uncommon and little understood group of birds (see Leukering 2001).

Out-of-Season Sightings

As stated by Sherony and Brock (1997), experts on the movement of sub-adult jaegers have conflicting opinions. The subject is barely even broached by other experts such as Olsen and Larsson (1997) and Wiley and Lee (1998, 1999). "Luckily" for Illinois birders, virtually all jaegers that pass through our state and other inland locations in the United States, are either in juvenile or adult plumages, a fact recognized by other authors (Landing 1966, Mather 1981, Sherony and Brock 1997, Sherony 1999). There are only two records of sub-adult jaegers for Illinois — one jaeger sp. (reported as Pomarine) at Alton, 9-12 July 1981 (Kleen 1982) and one Parasitic at Springfield, 22-23 June 1998 (Kleen 1999). Interestingly, these two records are also Illinois' only two "summer" records. Although these dates seem late for spring migration or early for fall migration, Wiley and Lee (1999) mention regular July sightings off the Atlantic coast for Parasitics, and Olsen and Larsson (1997) state (for Parasitics in northern Europe), "the first part of the migration consists mainly of immatures and non-breeding adults, peaking in July and the first part of August." There are also a few other June and July records for other Midwestern States (Mumford and Keller 1984, Robinson 1990, Robbins 1991, Granlund et al. 1994).



Parasitic Jaeger. Duluth, Minnesota. Photo by Peter Weber.

Illinois also has only two spring jaeger records, both very early and neither identified to species. The first was observed at Chicago, 8 April 1982 (Kleen 1983), and the other was 20 March 1996 at Carlyle Lake, a bird reported as a Pomarine (see Johnson et al. 1998).

Early spring records are not unprecedented though, as Kentucky has a record for a Pomarine, 4-24 March (Monroe 1994); Minnesota has a Long-tailed record for 12 April 1962 (Janssen 1987); a flock of 5 Parasitics was reported 23 April 1916 in Missouri (Robbins and Easterla 1992); and Ohio has a Parasitic specimen from "late March or early April 1880" (Peterjohn 1989). Sightings of any jaeger inland (away from the coast) in spring, including the Midwest are rare. Most of these are on the Great Lakes (Lake Superior and the Point Pelee area) in late May through early June (Sherony and Brock 1997).

True winter records are even rarer in Illinois. Many records exist of fall jaegers lingering well into November and early December. However, the only records beyond that period are the only December (23rd) record for a Parasitic, in 1973 (Mlodinow 1984); a Pomarine Jaeger near Alton, 23 November — 15 December 1996 (Danley 1997); a Pomarine Jaeger 18 December 1982 at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (Robinson 1996); and another Pomarine Jaeger (and

only mid-winter record) 29 January-5 February 2000 at Rend Lake (Stotz 2001). It is interesting that three of the four latest records are all from far southern Illinois, and three of these are Pomarines. Peak Pomarine migration trails Parasitic by about two weeks, with early juvenile Pomarines being very rare; any September Pomarine sighting should be documented with extreme care (Sherony and Brock 1997).

Best Times: Where, When, and How Many

The best time to view jaegers in Illinois and in the Midwest is September through November. There is a noticeable buildup of all jaeger species beginning about 1 October, with a peak from about 15 October through 7 November, with many jaeger records continuing to the end of November.

Table 2 summarizes the known arrival dates of 225 jaeger records statewide. Again, due to the lack of specific age data in the literature for many birds, it is difficult to show a separation of adult vs. juvenile migratory periods. Of the 286 all-time Illinois jaeger records, only 32 were specifically noted as adults. And although several authors including Olsen and Larsson (1997), Sherony and Brock (1997), and Lee (1999), suggest adults, in general, migrate south in fall ahead of juveniles, this observation is not borne out in Illinois records. This phenomenon may simply be the result of some of the more inexperienced juvenile birds using an overland or "inland" route to their wintering locations, while adults take the more traditional eastward deflection following the Great Lakes to a shorter overland crossing to the East Coast.

The overwhelming majority of September jaeger sightings in Illinois are Parasitic. In fact, the state has only two Pomarine Jaeger records for this month. From the records with specific dates, the Pomarine Jaeger appears, on average, to be a later fall migrant than Parasitic in Illinois. A jaeger seen in November in Illinois is just as likely to be a Pomarine as it is to be a Parsitic, and even more likely if the bird is at a large, downstate reservoir.

The most likely place to observe jaegers in Illinois is the Lake Michigan shoreline in Chicagoland, especially for Parasitic. This location is also the best place to see a jaeger in adult plumage. The single best location to look for jaegers along the Lake Michigan shoreline is the 2.5 mile strip of land that juts into the lake between Gillson Harbor in Wilmette and the Northwestern University former landfill site in Evanston (see Mlodinow 1984).

Of 214 all-time jaeger records from the Lake Michigan shoreline, 82 or 38 percent come from this small area. Other nearby areas mentioned in the literature include Glencoe, Winnetka and Kenilworth, all in Cook County. Before the 1970s most records from Chicagoland were simply given as "Chicago" with no specific location noted. Exactly 50 percent (107 of 214) of all jaeger reports are from the Chicago lakefront, with specific reports from Montrose Harbor (8), Lincoln Park (1), Jackson Park (5) and Navy Pier (2). Almost all (16 of 18) of the jaeger reports from the Lake County portion of the Lake Michigan shoreline come from the 9-mile stretch between Waukegan Harbor north to Illinois Beach State Park; the only other reports are from Highland Park (1) and the Great Lakes Naval Training Center (1). The Gillson/ Evanston and Montrose regions where most sightings occur are also good places for gulls and terns, and feature prominent topographical landmarks for the jaegers to work around as they fly south along the shoreline. Chicagoland birders tend to favor the Gillson/Evanston and Montrose areas for birding locations, increasing the chances of jaeger observations there — over other seemingly good vantage points such as Waukegan Harbor, the Park Avenue overlook in Glencoe, the Tower Road overlook in Winnetka or Rainbow Beach on Chicago's south side.

Birding intensity also likely plays a large part in the many observations of downstate jaegers. Although jaegers are very likely attracted to large bodies of water where large numbers of gulls and terns congregate, it is also probably no coincidence that most downstate jaeger reports come from areas like these that are most heavily birded, notably Lake Chautauqua, along the Illinois River in Mason County, Lake Springfield in Sangamon County, and Carlyle Lake in Clinton/Bond Counties. There are a few reports of jaegers from some of Illinois' other large reservoirs including Lakes Shelbyville, Clinton, Rend, and Crab Orchard, but these lakes receive far less birding pressure than the aforementioned areas, especially within the past 10 to 15 years.

Fully 30 percent of all downstate jaeger sightings have come from Carlyle Lake (20 of 66) including all three species. Next comes Lake Chautauqua with 9 birds (13.6 percent), also including all three species, followed by Lake Springfield with 8 birds (>12 percent). Other locations with numbers of jaeger sightings include the Illinois River valley with 16 (including Peoria Lake, Powerton Lake at Pekin and the Lake Chautauqua birds), and the Mississippi River valley with 10 including 6 in the Alton area. Other downstate records have occurred at Clinton Lake (3), Lake Decatur (2), Crab Orchard (2), Olney (2), Rend Lake (1), LaSalle Power Plant cooling lake (1) and Lake Mattoon (1). The only jaeger record not occurring near a large body of water was the specimen (thought to be a Long-tailed; see Bailey 2001) from Nashville in Washington County in 1893. It is very likely jaegers are going undetected most years from the La Salle Nuclear Power Plant cooling lake near Seneca, Pool 13/Spring Lake on the Mississippi River (Carroll/ Whiteside counties), Lake Shelbyville (Shelby/Moultrie counties), Clinton Lake (DeWitt County), Lake Decatur (Macon County), and especially Rend Lake in Franklin and Jefferson counties.

Following a breeding season in the Arctic when lemmings are plentiful, the number of juvenile jaegers is also high, especially for Pomarines and Long-taileds, which are especially dependent on them as a food source (Andersson 1976; Olsen and Larson 1997, Wiley and Lee 1998). In western Europe, large numbers of juvenile jaegers have occurred at three-year intervals, with noticeable influxes in 1976, 1982, 1985, 1988, and 1991 (Olsen and Larsson 1997), apparently in response to peak lemming years. Although lemmings do not necessarily have peak years all across their range, many jaeger migratory influxes correspond well with lemming outbreaks.

Table 3 shows jaeger high, good, and low count years for Illinois. Many, if not all the years with high numbers, correspond well with either regional or national high counts in those years (Peterjohn 1992, Brock 1997, Sherony and Brock 1997, and Contreras 2000).

Daily high counts in Illinois do not even come close to rivaling some of the better daily high counts made on the eastern Great Lakes, even counts as close as Miller Beach in Gary Indiana (see Landing 1966, Sherony and Brock 1997). However, all substantial high counts have come from the Lake Michigan shoreline, although it is not clear if counts made in the fall of 1951 were single-day. Nolan (1952) says high counts were 12 and 13 in early October and early November. The exceptional count of 9 birds on 25 October 1986 at Gillson Park in Wilmette by Landing included the all-time high of four adult birds. The only other counts of note were 5 Parasitic at Evanston 14 October 1974 and 4 Parasitic at Illinois Beach State Park/Waukegan Beach 31 October 1991. Downstate "high" counts are best represented over the course of a fall season. Lake Carlyle has attracted three birds in one fall three times; 1985 (2 Pomarine, 1 Parasitic), 1988 (1 Pomarine, 1 Parasitic, 1 jaeger sp.); and 1999 (1 Long-tailed and 2 jaeger sp.). Lake Springfield was home to three birds in 1996 (2 Pomarine and 1 jaeger sp.). Interestingly, there are numerous instances downstate of more than one species appearing at the same location at the same time, suggesting jaegers may migrate together in small, loose, mixed-species groups, possibly after the passage of a strong cold front. Other similar instances have been noted by Monson and Phillips (1981) in Arizona (Parasitic/ Long-tailed), by Robinson (1990) in Tennessee (Pomarine/Parasitic), by Monroe (1994) in Kentucky (Pomarine/non-Pomarine jaeger sp.), and by Kent and Dinsmore (1996) in Iowa (Pomarine/Paraisitic). This is all the more interesting in that ANY jaeger noted at any of these locations was an exceptional event. This "flocking" has been regularly noted following fronts on the Indiana portion of the Lake Michigan shoreline and included Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers sometimes noted side by side (K. Brock, pers. comm.).

Downstate Jaegers

Going through all the fall field notes in North American Birds (and its predecessors, Field Notes and American Birds), from 1990-2000, I found far more "inland" records of jaegers in Illinois than in any other of the lower 48 states, with the possible exception of Colorado. Inland records are rare even in most, if not all, of the coastal states, and details are usually noted for these records. Part of the reason more inland records exist for Illinois is undoubtedly a larger base of birders throughout the state compared with most if not all of the inland states, especially on the migratory pathway that jaegers likely take between the western Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico. Undoubtedly, many other jaegers are going undetected in the states within this migratory pathway. Birds moving through the eastern Great Lakes most likely use the short, overland crossing between Lake Ontario and the East Coast,

Table 2.. Known arrival dates of 225 fall Illinois jaegers, 1876-2000.

PARASITIC

AUG. 15-31			SEPT. 1-7			SEPT. 8-14			SEPT. 15-21			SEPT. 22-30			OCT. 1-7			OCT. 8-14			OCT. 15-21			OCT. 22-31			NOV. 1-7			NOV. 8-14			NOV. 15-21			NOV. 22-30			DEC. 1-7		
ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u
	1				3	1	2	1		2	2		3		3	1	5			6	6	2	3	7	7	12	2		9	1		3	1		1	1	1	4					

POMARINE

AUG. 15-31			SEPT. 1-7			SEPT. 8-14			SEPT. 15-21			SEPT. 22-30			OCT. 1-7			OCT. 8-14			OCT. 15-21			OCT. 22-31			NOV. 1-7			NOV. 8-14			NOV. 15-21			NOV. 22-30			DEC. 1-7		
ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u
1															1	1	3		2	3			1			1		1	1		1	2		3			3					1

JAEGER SP.

AUG. 15-31			SEPT. 1-7			SEPT. 8-14			SEPT. 15-21			SEPT. 22-30			OCT. 1-7			OCT. 8-14			OCT. 15-21			OCT. 22-31			NOV. 1-7			NOV. 8-14			NOV. 15-21			NOV. 22-30			DEC. 1-7		
ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u
1		2		8	7		2	4			4		1	7			7		6	3		4	13	2		9		5	8		1	3		2	1	3		6				1

SUBTOTALS

AUG. 15-31			SEPT. 1-7			SEPT. 8-14			SEPT. 15-21			SEPT. 22-30			OCT. 1-7			OCT. 8-14			OCT. 15-21			OCT. 22-31			NOV. 1-7			NOV. 8-14			NOV. 15-21			NOV. 22-30			DEC. 1-7		
ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u	ad	juv	u
2	1	2		8	10	1	4	5		2	6		4	7	4	2	15		8	12	6	6	17	9	7	22	2	6	18	1	2	8	1	5	2	4	4	10			2

TOTALS (all jaegers of all ages)

AUG. 15-31	SEPT. 1-7	SEPT. 8-14	SEPT. 15-21	SEPT. 22-30	OCT. 1-7	OCT. 8-14	OCT. 15-21	OCT. 22-31	NOV. 1-7	NOV. 8-14	NOV. 15-21	NOV. 22-30	DEC. 1-7
5	18	10	8	11	21	20	29	38	26	11	8	18	2

Key: ad = adult, juv = juvenile, u = unknown age

as birds are rarely seen inland east of the St. Lawrence River (Sherony and Brock 1997, Sherony 1999).

Landing (1966) was one of the first to suggest that the birds passing westward from points such as Michigan City and Gary (Miller Beach) in Indiana, may be taking an overland route to the Gulf. As records have begun to increase at several inland locations in Illinois and at sites such as Millwood Lake in Arkansas (see Jones and Neal 1986; Jackson 1993, 1998, 2000), a pattern seems to be emerging, especially in regard to Pomarine and Long-tailed Jaegers. Mounting evidence from observations in the Gulf of Mexico suggest that Pomarines are by far the most common jaeger there, at least in late fall (Jackson 2000, Sexton et al 2000a, 2000b). Although not likely a result of massive overland migration, the inland migration through Illinois and other midwestern and central southern states (including Arkansas) seems to suggest a regular movement of these birds from the Great Lakes to the Gulf (see Cramp 1983 and Leukering 2000). Another interesting sidebar to downstate birds is that multi-day visits by individual birds not only seems to be the rule in Illinois, but also among other inland records I was able to find from the lower 48 states. In records gleaned from North American Birds (and its predecessors, Field Notes and American Birds) from the fall (and a few other records) issues of the 1990 to 2000 field seasons, Pomarines and Long-taileds, again average longer lengths of stay than Parasitics. Thirty-three Long-taileds (from 15 states at "inland" sites) averaged 3.9 days per bird, with visits 10 days or longer not uncommon (6 birds), including birds remaining 15 and 17 days.

Much of the inland jaeger migration could be in the form of one long, non-stop flight with occasional birds brought down during severe whether or when energy reserves become depleted. This would explain many of the long duration stays for Pomarine and Long-tailed Jaegers that are reported inland (away from the Great Lakes). Of 18 downstate Illinois Pomarine records between 1962 to 1999, the average length of stay was 5.8 days with only 7 of these birds being "one-day wonders." Six birds stayed 10 days or more, the longest being 17 and 23 days. Illinois' only two accepted Long-tailed records averaged 14.5 day stays, with one bird staying 14 and the other 15 days. Of 17 downstate Parasitics, the average stay was only 3.7 days, but without one bird, which seemed to be an anomaly (with an exceptional stay of 25 days), the average is only 2.3 days.

Summary

A minimum of 286 jaegers have been seen in Illinois between 1876 and 2000. Jaegers have been found every year in Illinois between 1970 and 2000. As with virtually all Midwestern regions, fall sightings predominate. With increased identification skills and documentation of birds, both Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers are likely to be found as "regular" migrants in the state, whereas current status is now "casual" (IORC 1999). Long-tailed Jaegers are likely more common in the state than records indicate. A clear dichotomy exists as to which species is more often found on Lake Michigan (Parasitic) and which species is more likely to be found on large, downstate reservoirs (Pomarine). Also jaegers that appear at downstate locations (usually large rivers or reservoirs) tend to stay several days as opposed to birds on Lake Michigan, which are virtually always fly-bys. Illinois birders should continue to document all jaegers to increase the understanding of patterns regarding age, timing of migration, routes used, and the true status of each species both downstate and on Lake Michigan.

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Table 3. High Count Years for Jaegers in Illinois

High Year	Number	Good Year	Number	Low Year	Number
1951	25+	1997	12	1976	1
1986	21	1999	12	1971	2
1991	19	2000	12	1980	2
1996	15	1966	10	1989	2
1985	14	1982	10	1994	2
1974	13	1973	9	1970	3
		1988	9	1979	3
				1981	3
				1990	3

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Pomarine Jaeger. Indiana. Photo by Ken Brock.

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The 2001 Illinois Statewide Spring Bird Count

by Vernon M. Kleen

The 30th Annual Statewide Spring Bird Count was conducted on Saturday, 5 May 2001. It was a great day! It's hard to believe these counts have been going on this long. The most significant reason for the Spring Bird Count is to monitor bird populations in Illinois during the height of the spring migration. For that one day each year observers are asked to make an accurate accounting of all individuals of every bird species encountered that day, the number of hours spent making those observations, and the number of miles walked and driven during the course of making those observations. By requiring these three things, it is possible to compare species results from year to year and become aware of changing populations for many species. For example, this year's data compared with previous years show the decline in Carolina Wrens and the serious lack of migrant thrushes. One of the outcomes of keeping such data is there are always records involved and, like any sport, everyone wants to know what the best records are. So, this report not only provides a compilation of the 2001 results, but also shows how it compared, record-wise, to other recent years and identifies all the new or tied records that were set or matched. As a starter, the number of participating volunteers this year was 1,430, similar to the last two years, but 180 fewer than the record number set in 1997.

Over the years it has become apparent that the Spring Bird Count (probably because of the many records kept) has become an annual competition, or, perhaps, more appropriately, multiple competitions. Results of many competitions appear in the Tables that accompany this report; however, some, such as the friendly rivalries between counties or between parties within counties, are not herein recorded. On a state-wide level, the biggest competitions each year seem to be how the final tally of species will compare with other years: Which county, Cook or Lake, will report the greatest number of species and which county will report the 3rd greatest number? At the county level, the biggest competitions each year are to do better than last year, to break 100 species (or some other species goal) and, if possible, to set a new high species count. Some even hope to set new high counts for a particular species for a single county. To meet these goals, county coordinators put together teams to assure thorough coverage of every nook and cranny in their counties and individuals who know where key or accidental species may be found on count day. In many counties, considerable advance planning and scouting occurs. With the recent arrival of what are now regularly occurring and widely distributed exotic species, such as the House Finch, Monk Parakeet, and soon-to-be Eurasian Collared-Dove, and major increases in what were formerly fairly rare native species (at least for May) such as American White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, Canada Geese, Bald Eagles, Wild Turkeys, Sandhill Cranes, winter gulls, and Clay-colored Sparrows (perhaps even Painted Buntings and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers), current county counts should have the potential of averaging 5 to 10 species higher now than they did during the early years of the count.

The Chipping Sparrow was among 52 species reported from 90 or more counties in Illinois (89 percent) during the 2001 Illinois Statewide Spring Bird Count. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

As for goals, everyone knows that we go to great lengths to achieve two specific statewide goals: to have at least one team, but preferably two or more teams (and five or more observers), in

Annual Comparisons

Criteria	2001	2000	1999	Highest Total
Number of Species	257	266	262	269 (1996)
Number of Birds	520,970	533,335	588,646	593,680 (1996)
Number of Participating Counties	101	101	100	102 (2 yrs)
Number of Observers	1,430	1,448	1,479	1,611 (1997)
Number of Party Miles Walked	2,459	2,425	2,287	2,628 (1995)
Number of Party Miles Driven	23,942	23,295	23,305	23,942 (2001)
Total Number of Party Miles	26,401	25,720	25,592	26,401 (2001)
Number of Party Hours Walked	3,120	3,070	3,218	3,457 (1997)
Number of Party Hours Driven	1,957	1,996	1,932	2,140 (1998)
Total Number of Party Hours	5,077	5,066	5,150	5,565 (1997)
No. Species in 90 or more Counties	52	53	54	55 (1996)
Counties with 100 or more Species	69	77	74	80 (1997)
Counties with 20 or more Observers	19	20	19	24 (1998)
Highest Species total in single county	184	190	202	205 (1983)
Average # species/participating county	113	117	122	122 (1999)
Average # species for all 102 counties	112	116	120	120 (1999)

Table 1.

every county every year, and to receive a confirmed list of 100 or more species from every county on count day. These goals may be a challenge, but, at least they are achievable. In regards to the first goal, the 2001 contingency fielded two or more teams (parties) with 5 or more observers in 86 counties; as for the remaining 16 counties, there was at least one team (sometimes a single observer) in 15, but (because of arthritis) the 16th went without its hoped-for observer. As for the second goal, 100 or more species were achieved in 69 counties (which is 11 short of the record and 33 short of the ultimate goal). See Figures 1 and 2.

RESULTS

Weather. Count day was a very pleasant day but highly variable across the state. In some areas (south) the skies were clear to partly cloudy in the morning and partly cloudy to overcast in the afternoon; or (west) partly cloudy all day; or (northwest) cloudy to overcast in the morning and only partly cloudy in the afternoon; and (northeast) varying from cloudy to partly cloudy all day. Moisture consisted solely of light and very scattered morning showers in the north and northwest and mid-to-late afternoon showers in the west and southwest. Temperatures were extremely comfortable ranging from the high 40s and low 50s to the mid-to-upper 70s in the northern counties and from the mid-to-upper 50s to upper 70s to low 80s in the central and southern counties. Wind was extremely variable: mostly southerly (5-15 mph) in the south, southerly to westerly (5-25 mph) in the west, and easterly or southwesterly (5-25 mph) in both the northwest and northeast. In some instances, the wind changed 180 degrees during the course of the day.

Highest County Counts. Count day 2001(5 May) was on the early side of the Count Day Window (4-10 May) and 2002 will be the earliest date possible. The early date, thought to be a benefit for southern Illinois birders in a competitive sense, turned out (as usual) to be much better for northern counties than southern counties. For that matter, count day (and perhaps most of the entire spring season) was rather lackluster because of the apparent paucity of should-be migrants. All counties did poorly compared with other years, and the total statewide species count was a mediocre 257. Cook County did retain its top position with a modest 184 species and Lake County followed with an even more modest 172. The other counties with 150 or more species were Union (165), Will (162), Du Page (161), Knox (156), Clinton (154), Winnebago (153), Champaign (151), La Salle (150), and McHenry (150). There were also two counties with 149 and four more with 148 species. Seven of 11 counties with 150 or more species were in the northern quarter of the state, three were in the center half of Illinois, and only one was in the southern quarter. In 1999 and 2000, there were, respectively, 17 and 12 counties with 150 or more species.

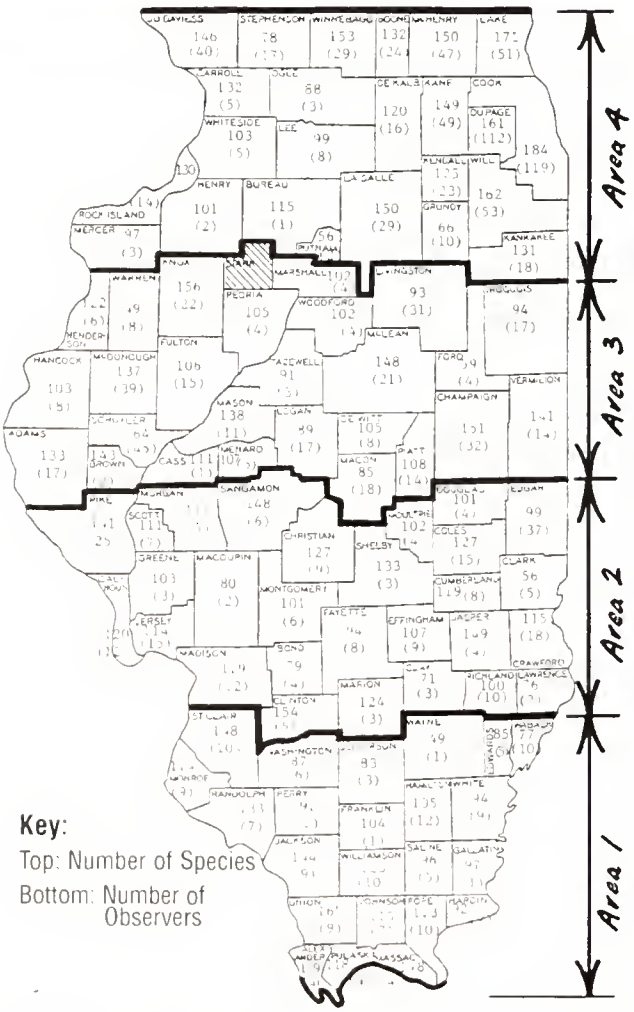


Figure 1. County participation in the 30th Annual Statewide Spring Bird Count 5 May 2001.

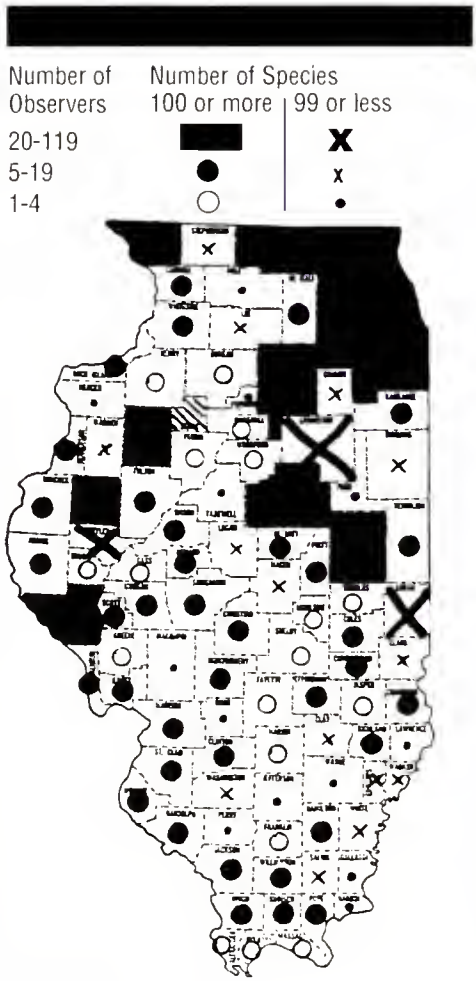


Figure 2.

Figures 1 and 2. The best visual of how well everyone did on count day this year is found in Figure 1. The first number signifies the total number of species identified and the second number, the number of observers. A major benefit of this Figure is that it can be used to quickly compare the results of one county with results of any other county. It also helps to visualize just how far away some of the counties are from where more birding assistance would be helpful; however, Figure 2 may show the same information more dramatically.

Table 1 and Figure 3. Table 1 shows the 2001 statewide results and compares those results with the last two years and the official state records. The only new records in this table for 2001 were the number of party miles driven

(168 miles added to the previous record) and the total number of party miles of participation (walked and driven — 366 miles added to the previous high). Translated, this year's SBC birders, even though fewer in number, spent much more time driving in search of birds than any previous year. The 257 recorded species is the lowest we've had since 1993 when we only had 254. Over the 30-year span of the Spring Bird Count (beginning in 1972), there were 5 years when the statewide species total was less than 250 (lowest was 241 in 1974); 13 years when it ranged from 250 to 259; and 12 years when it ranged from 260 to 269 (the highest occurred in 1996). The average for the 30-year period is 257.7 species and the median is 257. So the year 2001 was a very average year. When grouping the counts in 5-year averages (Figure 3), the average annual species total was only about 250 species in the early years, then fluctuated between 253 and 260 for the next 16 years, then climbed to 265 in recent years (1994-2000); however, the average for the last 5-year period dropped back to 262 species per year. A lot of these changes can be attributed to the gain in species referenced in the introduction.

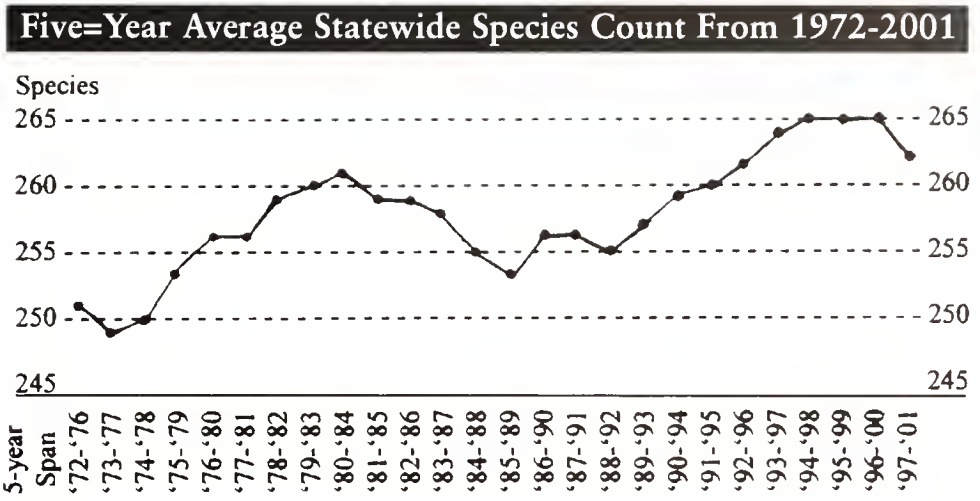


Figure 3.

Table 2. Table 2 lists, in descending order, the 19 counties with 20 or more observers; Cook and Du Page are the only two that consistently have 100 or more observers. All county coordinators (not just the 19 above) are hereby acknowledged and congratulated for their willingness and ability to line up volunteers and for assigning territories that are designed to keep the birders busy and productive all day so they don't have to leave their areas to "poach" on other birder's territories and duplicate data. For that matter, all birders should be acknowledged and congratulated, and especially so for staying within their delineated territories rather than running about everywhere and helping to maintain the integrity of the SBC data. Despite the aforementioned congratulations, there have been rumors that some birders do leave their delineated territories and do poach on other areas; in addition, rumor has it that these same birders count the time and miles spent birding in areas for which data have already been gathered. Such rumors do bring to mind a couple of questions that apply mostly to the counties that are well- endowed with observers. First, since every county has a finite amount of birding territory, and, since efficient birders don't always need an entire day to cover their delineated areas (sometimes finishing before noon), what do such birders do for the remainder of the afternoon/evening without poaching? Secondly, if the territory sizes are limited and the birders have finished their assigned areas by noon and stop counting birds at that time (hence, only morning birding hours recorded for the SBC), would the information they submit be heavily biased in favor of the birds that are most active in the morning and be biased against those species more active later in the day? Any thoughts or comments?

Expanded birding opportunities. Perhaps some birders out there, especially those in the counties well-endowed with observers, would like to expand their horizons a bit, or, experience a larger, more flexible SBC territory, or just do something different. If you are one of these, your assistance would be very welcome in any of the lesser-endowed counties. In addition, such assistance would help us get closer to the two specific statewide goals. Please let me know if you'd be willing to help outside your home county (if your home county will be adequately covered without your assistance).

Table 3. Table 3 provides the usual comparison of birding effort in each south-to-north quarter of the state (identified as Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4 in Figure 1). The 2001 information shows that the average number of party hours per county was 50.27, about 2.75 hours less per county than in 2000, and 4.25 hours less than the 1997 record.

Tables 4 and 5. Table 4 lists the 52 species that were found in 90 or more counties. Thirteen (25%) were found in all 101 reporting counties and another five were found in all but one county. Table 5 presents the annual list of the 20 most common species in descending order. The Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle remain No. 1 and No. 2, respectively. The robin and starling reversed their traditional spots of being the 3rd and 4th most common and the Ring-billed Gull, which is recorded in high numbers periodically (such as the 14,000+ in Cook County this year) jumped up to 5th position this year (ahead of the House Sparrow and Canada Goose) and is common enough about 50% of the time to be listed in this table. The next six species have nearly the same numbers and are in the same descending order as last year. The Barn Swallow and Tree Swallow jumped to the No. 3 and No. 4 positions, respectively, since last year, but their totals fluctuate annually. The Yellow-rumped Warbler, too, fluctuates enough to be on and off the list about 50-60% of the time; this year it achieved 15th position. The Indigo Bunting, Mallard, Chimney Swift, and Palm Warbler (the latter on the list for only the fourth time) round out the top 20. From all appearances, a species total needs to be 5,000 or more to make this annual list (the next five below the top 20 ranged from 4,700 to

just under 5,000 and included three species that were on the list last year). You have probably already noticed that the Canada Goose (ranked 7th this year) is more common than a lot of common species; the numbers show it at least 10 times as common as the American Crow and Northern Cardinal and nearly twice as common as the cowbird and Blue Jay. On further review of the list, perhaps you noted that nine species have been on the top 20 list all 30 years and three more for 29 years. It's also interesting to note, at least recently, that the Red-winged Blackbird is nearly twice as common as any other species; the next three hover in the 30,000 range; the next group (three to four species) are in the 15,000 to 20,000 range; and the remaining dwindle about 500 to 1,000 at a time down to the apparent cut off of 5,000. Finally, for what it's worth, there were no new high counts for any of the top 20 species this year and only the Indigo Bunting came close to establishing a new record.

Table 6. Unlike the common species in the previous table, several species are reported from a single or just two counties. It's primarily these species that determined placement of the dots in Figure 3. Last year there were 27 species reported from a single county; this year, only 17 (which appear in bold face in Table 6). Some of the more interesting single county records were Long-tailed Duck (4th year), Gray Partridge (reported all 30 years, but down to a single individual this year — only two birds last year), Lesser Black-backed Gull (5th year, but apparently becoming regular), Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (10th year), and Red Crossbill (13th year). The most interesting birds of the

Area Coverage

AREA	Possible # Counties	# Counties Participating	# Party Hours	Average # Party of Hours Per County
1	23	23 (100%)	778	33.83
2	28	28 (100%)	996	34.50
3	27	26 (96%)	1133	43.58
4	24	24 (100%)	2200	91.67
TOTAL	102	101 (99%)	5077	50.27

Table 3.

Species Reported From 90 (89%) or More Counties

Great Blue Heron	100	Warbling Vireo	90	Eastern Towhee	98
Turkey Vulture	99	Red-eyed Vireo	91	Chipping Sparrow	98
Canada Goose	99	Blue Jay	101	Field Sparrow	98
Wood Duck	91	American Crow	101	Song Sparrow	97
Mallard	96	Horned Lark	96	White-crown Sparrow	90
Red-tailed Hawk	101	Tree Swallow	95	Northern Cardinal	101
American Kestrel	92	Barn Swallow	99	Rose-breast Grosbeak	94
Killdeer	101	Tufted Titmouse	96	Indigo Bunting	100
Rock Dove	96	White-breast Nuthatch	98	Red-winged Blackbird	101
Mourning Dove	101	House Wren	94	Eastern Meadowlark	100
Chimney Swift	95	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	93	Common Grackle	101
Red-head Woodpecker	101	Eastern Bluebird	100	Brown-head Cowbird	99
Red-bell Woodpecker	101	Wood Thrush	93	Baltimore Oriole	99
Downy Woodpecker	99	American Robin	101	House Finch	98
Northern Flicker	99	Gray Catbird	98	American Goldfinch	100
Eastern Phoebe	93	Brown Thrasher	101	House Sparrow	101
Grt Crested Flycatcher	93	European Starling	101		
Eastern Kingbird	98	Common Yellowthroat	97		

Table 4.

Counties with 20 or More Participants

Cook	119	Champaign	32
Du Page	112	Livingston	31
Will	53	La Salle	29
Lake	51	Winnebago	29
Kane	49	Pike	25
McHenry	47	Boone	24
Schuyler	45	Kendall	23
Jo Daviess	40	Knox	22
McDonough	39	McLean	21
Edgar	37		

Table 2.

Twenty Most Common Species

Species	2001	2000	1999	Highest	# Years in Top
Red-winged Blackbird	64,459	60,737	66,495	69,971 (1996)	30
Common Grackle	34,124	33,213	33,504	59,264 (1974)	30
American Robin	32,795	30,792	29,778	35,720 (1995)	30
European Starling	30,111	32,695	30,733	37,736 (1992)	30
Ring-billed Gull	19,968	17,369	16,855	29,243 (1994)	17
House Sparrow	19,459	21,384	19,087	31,321 (1983)	30
Canada Goose	16,267	19,031	18,019	19,031 (2000)	16
American Goldfinch	14,810	13,150	16,236	16,236 (1999)	29
American Crow	11,915	11,015	11,273	13,226 (1991)	30
Northern Cardinal	11,122	10,842	10,530	12,088 (1995)	30
Mourning Dove	10,582	10,558	10,558	12,369 (1995)	30
Barn Swallow	10,295	7,786	27,532	27,532 (1999)	29
Brown-headed Cowbird	9,544	9,974	9,858	12,542 (1995)	29
Tree Swallow	9,444	6,277	23,942	24,573 (1989)	15
Yellow-rumped Warbler	8,733	*4,912	8,624	17,978 (1997)	18
Blue Jay	8,150	9,507	9,919	13,446 (1984)	30
Indigo Bunting	7,694	7,973	7,714	7,973 (2000)	11
Mallard	6,539	6,939	*7,052	8,731 (1994)	18
Chimney Swift	5,437	*5,284	8,509	9,987 (1983)	26
Palm Warbler	5,499	*3,525	*5,025	13,073 (1997)	4

*Species not in "Top 20" this year.

Table 5.

Species Account for the 2001 Spring Bird Count

Key to Table:
* = New Spring Bird Count High Total
# = Ties Spring Bird Count High Total
Species Reported from a Single County are in Bold Face.

Species	Total No. of Co.s	Birds	High County	(Total)
Common Loon	12	30	Lake	(9)
Pied-billed Grebe	34	107	Two counties	(16)
Horned Grebe	**1**	1	Coles	(1)
American White Pelican	7	203	Hancock	(54)
Double-crested Cormorant	62	4338	Will	(1200)
American Bittern	7	10	Massac	(3)
Least Bittern	5	7	Massac	(3)
Great Blue Heron	100#	4729	Mason	(474)
Great Egret	51	1810	Will	*(538)
Snowy Egret	11	75	Monroe	(21)
Little Blue Heron	24	211	St. Clair	(74)
Cattle Egret	16	336	St. Clair	(226)
Green Heron	80	504	Cook	(49)
Blk-crowned Night-Heron	15	925	Cook	(773)
Yel-crowned Night-Heron	8	14	Two counties	(3)
Black Vulture	8#	41	Massac	(15)
Turkey Vulture	99	3587	Jo Daviess	(152)
Gr. White-fronted Goose	2	2	Two counties	(1)
Snow Goose	11#	28	Brown	(8)
Canada Goose	99#	16267	Cook	(1479)
Mute Swan	14	126	Lake	(43)
Wood Duck	91	2621	Kane	(266)
Gadwall	21	101	Jasper	(21)
American Wigeon	10	15	McLean	(4)
American Black Duck	2	3	De Witt	(2)
Mallard	96*	6539	Cook	(897)
Blue-winged Teal	59	674	Brown	(65)
Northern Shoveler	25	65	Clinton	(9)
Northern Pintail	5	9	Morgan	(5)
Green-winged Teal	12	41	Brown	(10)
Canvasback	2	2	Two counties	(1)
Redhead	2	4	Sangamon	(3)
Ring-necked Duck	8	12	McHenry	(3)
Greater Scaup	1	2	Cook	(2)
Lesser Scaup	22	47	Kane	(6)
Long-tailed Duck	**1#**	1#	Calhoun	#(1)
Bufflehead	4	10	Lake	(5)
Common Goldeneye	**1**	1	Lake	(1)
Hooded Merganser	22	80	Jo Daviess	(12)
Common Merganser	2	2	Two counties	(1)
Red-breasted Merganser	8	202	Lake	(110)
Ruddy Duck	11	21	Cook	(4)
Osprey	24	45	Cook	*(7)
Mississippi Kite	6	23	Union	(7)
Bald Eagle	18	63*	Union	*(22)
Northern Harrier	23	42	Livingston	(8)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	27	45	Two counties	(5)
Cooper's Hawk	50	172	Du Page	(21)
Red-shouldered Hawk	19	66	Union	(12)
Broad-winged Hawk	23	46	Cook	(12)
Swainson's Hawk	**1**	1	Cook	(1)
Red-tailed Hawk	101*	1682	Jo Daviess	(116)
Rough-legged Hawk	**1**	1	Will	(1)
American Kestrel	92	553	Du Page	(31)
Merlin	**1**	1	Boone	(1)
Peregrine Falcon	6	15	Cook	*(9)
Gray Partridge	**1**	1	De Kalb	(1)
Ring-necked Pheasant	55	631	Champaign	(51)
Greater Prairie-Chicken	3*	72	Jasper	(39)
Wild Turkey	81*	813	Jo Daviess	(75)
Northern Bobwhite	71	891	Richland	(63)
King Rail	3	5	Two counties	(2)
Virginia Rail	13	45	Lake	(12)
Sora	49	336	McHenry	(48)
Common Moorhen	3	6	Lake	(4)
American Coot	64	966	Cook	(145)
Sandhill Crane	10	125	Lake	(54)
Black-bellied Plover	6	138	Livingston	(117)
American Golden-Plover	22	1746	McLean	(601)
Semipalmated Plover	43	343	Clinton	(55)
Killdeer	101#	3735	Richland	(134)
Greater Yellowlegs	44	221	Whiteside	(51)
Lesser Yellowlegs	59	570	Brown	(62)
Solitary Sandpiper	78	828	Lake	(76)
Willet	5	11	Two counties	(3)
Spotted Sandpiper	71	729	Cook	(55)
Upland Sandpiper	10	23	La Salle	(5)
Sanderling	3	5	Johnson	(3)
Semipalmated Sandpiper	30	266	Johnson	(41)
Western Sandpiper	2	4	Jackson	(3)
Least Sandpiper	53	1871	Clinton	(669)
White-rumped Sandpiper	3	13	Winnebago	(6)
Baird's Sandpiper	2	3	Henry	(2)
Pectoral Sandpiper	56	864	Pulaski	(132)
Dunlin	15	43	Brown	(8)
Stilt Sandpiper	2	4	Knox	(3)
Short-billed Dowitcher	12	25	Moultrie	(5)
Common Snipe	35	139	Lake	(23)
American Woodcock	33	122	Du Page	(14)
Laughing Gull	2	2	Two counties	(1)
Franklin's Gull	**1**	1	Calhoun	(1)
Bonaparte's Gull	5	2215	Lake	(2201)
Ring-billed Gull	46	19968	Cook	(14158)
Herring Gull	17	962	Lake	(729)
Thayer's Gull	2#	3	Lake	(2)
Lesser Black-backed Gull	**1**	3	Lake	(3)
Glaucous Gull	**1**	1	Lake	(1)
Caspian Tern	12	493	Cook	(298)
Common Tern	9	511	Lake	(486)
Forster's Tern	21	916	Lake	(781)
Black Tern	8	22	Carroll	(6)
Rock Dove	96	4778	Cook	(823)
Eurasian Collared-Dove	12*	33*	Jasper	*(13)
Mourning Dove	101	10582	Cook	(433)
Monk Parakeet	2#	31	Cook	(22)
Black-billed Cuckoo	17	29	Jackson	(4)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	57	198	Union	(20)
Barn Owl	4*	11*	Union	*(8)
Eastern Screech-Owl	36	76	Lake	(5)
Great Horned Owl	68	240	Knox	(13)
Barred Owl	76	411	Union	(46)
Short-eared Owl	**1**	1	Jasper	(1)
Common Nighthawk	49	198	Edgar	(22)
Chuck-will's-widow	19*	56*	Union	(13)
Whip-poor-will	68	505	Union	*(114)
Chimney Swift	95	5437	Kane	(305)
Ruby-throat Hummingbird	85	837	Calhoun	(111)
Belted Kingfisher	69	332	Two counties	(21)
Red-headed Woodpecker	97	1656	McDonough	(113)
Red-bellied Woodpecker	101*	2718*	Cook	(122)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	13	50	Jo Daviess	(27)
Downy Woodpecker	99	1824	Cook	(142)
Hairy Woodpecker	77	415	Cook	*(44)
Northern Flicker	99	1780	Cook	(177)
Pileated Woodpecker	59*	314	Union	(54)
Olive-sided Flycatcher	7	9	Hamilton	(3)
Eastern Wood-Pewee	82	546	Union	(76)
Acadian Flycatcher	38	302	Union	(111)
Willow Flycatcher	10	12	Cook	(3)
Least Flycatcher	55	158	Cook	(18)
Eastern Phoebe	93	1118	Jo Daviess	(92)
Great Crested Flycatcher	93#	1542	Union	(123)
Western Kingbird	2#	6*	Madison	*(5)
Eastern Kingbird	98	3006	Du Page	(133)
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	2*	2*	Two counties	#(1)

Table 6.

Species	Total No. of Co.s	Birds	High County	(Total)
Loggerhead Shrike	26	67	Massac	(8)
White-eyed Vireo	66	650	Union	(132)
Bell's Vireo	16	42	Randolph	(7)
Yellow-throated Vireo	69	334	Union	(43)
Blue-headed Vireo	36	76	Du Page	(8)
Warbling Vireo	90*	1972*	Du Page	(109)
Philadelphia Vireo	29	64	Rock Island	(111)
Red-eyed Vireo	91*	1347	Union	(149)
Blue Jay	101	8150	Cook	(644)
American Crow	101	1195	Cook	(1015)
Fish Crow	15*	183	Union	(55)
Horned Lark	96	2184	McLean	(211)
Purple Martin	89	3300	Calhoun	(305)
Tree Swallow	95#	9444	Carroll	(1542)
No. Rough-wing Swallow	86	4518	Carroll	(980)
Bank Swallow	60	4005	Carroll	(2361)
Cliff Swallow	59	2380	Randolph	(458)
Barn Swallow	99	10295	Carroll	(1390)
Carolina Chickadee	41*	869	Union	(105)
Black-capped Chickadee	61	3615	Du Page	(500)
Tufted Titmouse	96	2744	Union	(138)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	7	18	McHenry	(6)
White-breasted Nuthatch	98*	1431	Du Page	(67)
Brown Creeper	19	58	Hamilton	(6)
Carolina Wren	77	434	Massac	(28)
House Wren	94	4381	Du Page	(294)
Sedge Wren	20	59	Cook	(14)
Marsh Wren	23	80	Cook	(14)
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	2	Two counties	(1)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	40	359	Cook	(118)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	93*	2934*	Union	(384)
Eastern Bluebird	100	2971	Jo Daviess	(164)
Veery	47	179	Cook	(46)
Gray-cheeked Thrush	30	79	Union	(28)
Swainson's Thrush	62	373	Union	(84)
Hermit Thrush	19	71	Cook	(22)
Wood Thrush	93	1416*	Union	(160)
American Robin	101	32795	Cook	(1990)
Gray Catbird	98	4089	Cook	(364)
Northern Mockingbird	73	813	Richland	(67)
Brown Thrasher	101#	2141	Knox	(90)
European Starling	101	30111	Cook	(2168)
American Pipit	9	37	Jasper	(8)
Cedar Waxwing	53	1437	Du Page	(352)
Blue-winged Warbler	42	228	Cook	(43)
Golden-winged Warbler	34	87	Lake	(14)
["Lawrence's Warbler"	1#	1#	Henderson	#(1)]
Tennessee Warbler	83	2687	Du Page	(219)
Orange-crowned Warbler	15	62	Cook	(22)
Nashville Warbler	57	772	Cook	(139)
Northern Parula	69#	770	Union	(117)
Yellow Warbler	83	2089	Du Page	(270)
Chestnut-sided Warbler	57	364	Cook	(41)
Magnolia Warbler	40	187	Cook	(27)
Cape May Warbler	52#	231	Cook	(38)
Black-thr'd Blue Warbler	10	27	Three counties	(6)
Yellow-rumped Warbler	86	8733	Cook	(1162)
Black-thr'd Green Warbler	58	493	Cook	(111)
Blackburnian Warbler	40	112	Two counties	(8)
Yellow-throated Warbler	32	146	Union	(42)
Pine Warbler	22	55	Three counties	(6)
Prairie Warbler	15	133	Pope	(37)
Palm Warbler	78	5400	Cook	(1031)
Bay-breasted Warbler	38	159	Cook	(28)

Species	Total No. of Co.s	Birds	High County	(Total)
Blackpoll Warbler	56	482	Union	(62)
Cerulean Warbler	33	108	Carroll	(18)
Black-and-White Warbler	69	385	Cook	(61)
American Redstart	61	676	Jo Daviess	(89)
Prothonotary Warbler	64	612	Union	(131)
Worm-eating Warbler	27	177*	Union	(95)
Ovenbird	63	493	Cook	(55)
Northern Waterthrush	67	743	Cook	(170)
Louisiana Waterthrush	46	200	Union	(41)
Kentucky Warbler	52	556*	Union	(167)
Connecticut Warbler	**1**	1	Carroll	(1)
Mourning Warbler	8	11	Two counties	(2)
Common Yellowthroat	97	4686*	Union	(325)
Hooded Warbler	24	50	Union	(15)
Wilson's Warbler	17	38	De Kalb	(6)
Canada Warbler	9	19	Cook	(6)
Yellow-breasted Chat	68	688*	Union	#(111)
Summer Tanagaer	50	351*	Union	(114)
Scarlet Tanager	80	765	Union	(59)
Eastern Towhee	98*	1669	Mason	(91)
American Tree Sparrow	**1**	1	Cook	(1)
Chipping Sparrow	98	4951	Winnebago	(254)
Clay-colored Sparrow	9	27	Two counties	(9)
Field Sparrow	98	2723	Cook	(135)
Vesper Sparrow	48	258	McLean	(79)
Lark Sparrow	40*	201	Mason	(17)
Savannah Sparrow	73*	808	Du Page	(94)
Grasshopper Sparrow	73*	714	Jo Davies	(143)
Henslow's Sparrow	24*	140	Union	(35)
Nelson's Sharp-tail Spar.	**1**	2	Brown	(2)
Fox Sparrow	1	1	Will	(1)
Song Sparrow	97	4497	Du Page	(478)
Lincoln's Sparrow	28	136	Cook	(66)
Swamp Sparrow	51	851	Cook	(162)
White-throated Sparrow	88	3694	Cook	(1029)
Harris's Sparrow	4	4	Four counties	(1)
White-crowned Sparrow	90	2234	Cook	(400)
Dark-eyed Junco	5	6	Will	(2)
Lapland Longspur	**1**	25	Kane	(25)
Northern Cardinal	101	11122	Du Page	(672)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	94	2390	Cook	(207)
Blue Grosbeak	33*	97*	Union	(20)
Indigo Bunting	100	7694	Union	(692)
Dickcissel	69	1833	Union	(298)
Bobolink	70	3263	Jersey	(350)
Red-winged Blackbird	101	64459	Jo Daviess	(3979)
Eastern Meadowlark	100	4861	McDonough	(237)
Western Meadowlark	19	157	Jo Daviess	(66)
Yellow-headed Blackbird	6	85	Lake	(33)
Brewer's Blackbird	**1**	14	Lake	(14)
Common Grackle	101	34124	Will	(1625)
Brown-headed Cowbird	99	9544	Adams	(607)
Orchard Oriole	81#	602	Union	(85)
Baltimore Oriole	99	4975	Du Page	(346)
Purple Finch	35	224	Pike	(22)
House Finch	98#	3257	Cook	(275)
Red Crossbill	**1**	24	Mason	(24)
Pine Siskin	8	27	Du Page	(13)
American Goldfinch	100	14810	Du Page	*(1375)
House Sparrow	101	19459	Cook	(1632)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	24	310	McDonough	(35)
"EXOTICS"				
[Trumpeter Swan	None	None	N/A	(none]
[Ringed Turtle-Dove	None	None	N/A	(none)]

Table 6. continued

14 two-county records were Greater White-fronted Goose (14th year), Western Sandpiper (21st year), Western Kinghird (8th year), and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (5th year). Of course, there's always a list of species that "could have", "would have" or "should have" been reported this year that weren't such as: Black- necked Stilt, American Avocet, either godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Wilson's Phalarope (only the 3rd time this species has been missed), Winter Wren (1st time this species missed), Le Conte's Sparrow (1st time missed), and, perhaps, even the Painted Bunting.

New Records. Since 2001 was a mediocre year, the number of new records (49 — identified by an "*" in the Table) was only medioere; 23 (nearly half) were reported from a record number of counties; only 16 were for a new statewide species total; and the other 11 were found in record numbers for a single county. In addition, there were 25 records that tied the previous high (identified by a "#" in the Table). The largest increases over previous years for the number of counties reporting the species were Wild Turkey (up 4 counties), Eurasian Collared-Dove (up 6 counties), Chuck-will's-widow (up 4 counties), Fish Crow (up 3 counties), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (up 3 counties), and Savannah Sparrow (up 6 counties). The remainder were up only one or two counties and the more significant of these owing to their natural scarcity were Barn Owl (up 2), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (up 1), and Henslow's Sparrow (up 2). The total number of birds reported statewide were: Eurasian Collared-Dove (more than doubled, up 16 birds or 107%), Barn Owl (more than doubled, up 6 birds or 120%), Red-bellied Woodpecker (up 57 birds or 2%), Blue-gray Gnateatcher (up 110 birds or 4%), Wood Thrush (an interesting increase, up 158 birds or 13%), Worm-eating Warbler (up 41 birds or 30%), Kentucky Warbler (up 99 birds or 22%), Common Yellowthroat (up 126 birds or 3%), Yellow-breasted Chat (up 202 birds or 42%) and Blue Grosbeak (up 7 birds or 8%). The highest single county gain in birds reported were: Great Egret (up 104 birds or 24%, Will Co.), Bald Eagle (up 8 birds or 57%, Union Co.), Peregrine Falcon (up 5 birds or 125%, Cook Co.), Barn Owl (up 3 birds or 60%, Union Co.), Hairy Woodpecker (up 7 birds or 19%, Cook Co.), Western Kingbird (up 2 birds or 67%, Madison Co.), and American Goldfinch (up 50 birds or 4%, Du Page Co.).

County Statistics

County	Area	Number of Sp.	Number of Birds	Number of Obs.	Pts	TIME Start-End	Miles W/D	Hours W/D	County Compiler
Adams	3	133	7,232	17	6	*0400-2100*	11/330	13/40	Al Dierkes
Alexander	1	139	3,819	4	2	*0445-1610	3/193	3/17	Ida Domazlicky
Bond	2	79	3,779	4	1	0600-2000	4/147	4/10	Charley Marbut
Boone	4	132	10,118	24	14	0525-2035	114/329	75/19	Arlene Brei
Brown	3	143	1,634	2	1	*0300-1500	4/151	6/3	Michael Ward
Bureau	4	115	3,999	1	1	*0300-1715	6/165	5/7	Doug Stotz
Calhoun	2	120	7,471	12	8	*0415-2200*	10/212	13/39	Wilda Sutherland
Carroll	4	132	9,990	5	3	*0130-1730	11/315	8/13	Jeffrey Baughman
Cass	3	111	2,323	1	1	*0415-1615	2/134	4/8	Robert Randall
Champaign	3	151	9,121	32	20	*0340-2110*	63/384	86/26	Beth Chato
Christian	2	127	4,208	9	6	*0200-1900	25/322	29/16	Clark Olson
Clark	2	56	1,407	5	4	*0445-1545	5/44	4/9	Donna Clem
Clay	2	71	2,102	3	2	*0420-2020	8/110	14/4	Terry Esker
Clinton	2	154	5,399	5	3	*0000-2030	15/348	21/19	Dan Kassebaum
Coles	2	127	3,738	15	7	*0010-2200*	17/49	19/8	Tyler Funk
Cook	4	184	46,692	119	59	*0400-2200*	236/402	324/33	Duane Heaton
Crawford	2	115	5,404	18	9	*0500-2000	21/394	32/57	Patricia Neighbors
Cumberland	2	119	2,879	8	5	*0415-2145*	14/138	14/16	Larry Thorsen
De Kalb	4	120	6,791	16	6	*0300-2030	36/365	44/17	Darrell Shambaugh
De Witt	3	105	2,143	8	6	0600-2000	20/128	27/4	L. Ishmael–Miller
Douglas	2	101	2,024	4	3	*0340-1915	15/205	10/11	Ted Funk
Du Page	4	161	24,949	112	40	*0425-2030	244/251	278/25	Bob Fisher
Edgar	2	99	5,388	37	23	*0500-2300*	38/411	43/64	Mary Ida Riedell
Edwards	1	85	3,792	5	4	0545-2020	4/93	7/21	Elaine Michels
Effingham	2	107	5,028	9	6	*0430-2000	30/255	42/11	Mary Ann Hoeffliger
Fayette	2	94	1,205	8	5	*0500-2030	12/87	29/6	A.W. Jones
Ford	3	59	579	4	2	0540-1800	3/16	8/7	Larry David
Franklin	1	104	1,647	1	1	*0000-1830	3/28	7/2	Leonard Stanley
Fulton	3	106	4,922	15	5	*0430-1800	9/435	9/37	Helen Gasdorf
Gallatin	1	97	680	1	1	*0300-2030	4/98	9/5	Ron Bradley
Greene	2	103	762	3	1	*0500-1530	5/60	3/5	Helen Wuestenfeld
Grundy	4	66	1,032	10	6	0600-1700	14/30	19/4	Robert Crane
Hamilton	1	105	3,588	12	10	*0200-2100*	15/362	24/28	Hazel Clark
Hancock	3	103	4,092	8	4	*0400-1900	12/234	8/25	Phillip Tuttle
Hardin	1	92	1,007	2	1	0540-2020	1/82	2/11	Elizabeth Raikes
Henderson	3	122	2,456	6	4	*0400-2030	13/260	14/20	Chuck Leib
Henry	4	101	1,554	2	1	*0400-1830	5/141	9/4	Randy Nyboer
Iroquois	3	94	3,465	17	8	0600-2145*	25/342	36/20	Robert Dannehl
Jackson	1	144	6,224	9	5	*0330-2000	14/441	20/40	Paul Biggers
Jasper	2	149	2,941	4	2	*0530-2330*	8/90	11/7	Jeff Walk
Jefferson	1	83	906	3	1	0630-1900	5/67	10/2	Florence Glass
Jersey	2	114	5,157	15	3	*0400-2330*	3/121	6/16	Gilbert Ives
Jo Daviess	4	146	14,544	40	10	*0000-1900	44/659	41/65	Grace Storch
Johnson	1	115	1,671	7	3	*0400-2100*	6/91	10/12	Ray Boehmer
Kane	4	149	13,992	49	22	0515-2230*	111/404	139/28	Robert Montgomery
Kankakee	4	131	5,810	18	8	*0115-2100*	37/238	25/28	Etta Aubertin
Kendall	4	125	3,965	23	12	0530-2025	44/257	75/15	Dave Ramsden
Knox	3	156	8,416	22	13	*0300-2115*	49/692	58/51	Phil Reyburn
Lake	4	172	20,599	51	43	*0330-2025	112/620	142/33	Danny Diaz
La Salle	4	150	12,244	29	12	*0415-2100*	63/601	61/50	John McKee
Lawrence	2	76	810	2	1	0600-1930	4/59	7/5	Jim Garner

Table 7.

For the 2nd straight year there were no Ringed Turtle-Doves reported — not even in Will County; the Eurasian Collared-Dove is definitely on the move and was reported from twice as many counties as the previous year for the second consecutive year; the Gray Partridge was down to a single bird this year; the male Scissor- tailed Flycatcher found in Union County was joined by a female three days later which led to Illinois' 2nd successful nest (details to be published); a "Lawrence's" Warbler, although a non-countable species, is included in the table (Henderson County) again this year; the Painted Buntings returned to the same Madison County location as last year — but we aren't sure whether they were back in time to have been included in the count; an interesting gull, suggested to be a hybrid between a Laughing and Ring-billed, was found and photographed in Cook County; and since

County Statistics

County	Area	Number of Sp.	Number of Birds	Number of Obs.	Pty's	TIME Start-End	Miles W/D	Hours W/D	County Compiler
Lee	4	99	1,872	8	5	*0515-1900	8/125	14/15	John Bivins
Livingston	3	93	4,507	31	6	0730-1915	30/90	41/18	Joe Jobst
Logan	3	89	3,800	17	9	0520-2000	13/326	21/22	Margaret Lanterman
Macon	3	85	2,640	18	12	0530-2400*	25/484	30/12	Ross Thompson
Macoupin	2	80	873	2	1	*0420-1600	6/40	7/3	Vicki Hedrick
Madison	2	119	4.353	12	5	*0400-1930	25/300	21/19	Frank Holmes
Marion	2	124	2,844	3	2	*0420-1620	6/210	15/19	Terry Esker
Marshall	3	102	2,604	4	2	0520-1730	2/245	3/20	Mary Hill
Mason	3	138	6,293	11	4	*0400-1930	19/188	32/14	Richard Bjorklund
Massac	1	148	4,918	4	3	*0225-2020	18/160	38/9	Frank Bennett
McDonough	3	137	12,338	39	21	*0515-2230*	70/391	91/43	David Benson
McHenry	4	150	14,745	47	23	*0430-2030	69/700	80/50	David Frey
McLean	3	148	9,112	21	6	*0530-2000	37/335	34/11	Dale Birkenholz
Menard	3	107	2,285	5	5	*0500-1930	11/108	20/8	Kenneth Lockhart
Mercer	4	97	3,611	3	2	*0430-2115*	2/235	2/22	Bill Bertrand
Monroe	1	114	3,796	9	5	*0400-2020	15/192	25/17	Mary Regan
Montgomery	2	101	2,201	6	3	0530-1815	11/104	19/5	Mark Phipps
Morgan	2	115	1,218	5	2	0600-1830	5/121	7/12	Peggy Leverett
Moultrie	2	102	2,543	4	2	*0520-1730	12/81	12/3	Eric Smith
Ogle	4	88	866	3	3	*0505-1515	8/31	11/3	Bob Severson
Peoria	3	105	2,396	4	2	0515-1815	10/239	11/12	Mike Miller
Perry	1	91	752	2	2	0525-2025	5/13	12/2	Joey Vancil
Piatt	3	108	2,645	14	8	0545-2000	18/85	32/10	Elaine Regehr
Pike	2	141	7,705	25	11	*0300-2230*	15/440	14/56	Evelyn Hoover
Pope	1	113	1,901	10	7	0530-1745	18/135	12/9	Daniel Spivey
Pulaski	1	118	2,135	4	3	*0420-2120*	5/143	7/16	Bob Lindsay
Putnam	4	56	1,194	2	1	0530-1505	5/97	5/5	Michele Simone
Randolph	1	133	4,379	7	3	*0350-1845	16/334	19/17	Ann Sanders
Richland	2	100	6,131	10	9	0545-2000	20/437	25/43	Frank Storment
Rock Island	4	130	7,080	14	8	*0500-2320*	14/434	14/36	Tim Murphy
St. Clair	1	148	6,815	10	5	*0500-2110*	29/399	48/23	Richard Call
Saline	1	96	1,048	5	3	0530-2000	3/107	11/66	Kathy Phelps
Sangamon	2	148	4,332	6	5	*0400-2000	26/296	26/12	H. David Bohlen
Schuyler	3	64	1,914	45	5	0630-1900	6/21	9/7	Harold Hedden
Scott	2	111	2,260	7	3	0530-1530	11/205	16/10	Steve Tavender
Shelby	2	133	2,312	3	2	*0500-2200*	11/181	11/7	Karen Forcum
Stephenson	4	78	1,813	17	3	0600-1500	16/167	12/15	George Visel
Tazewell	3	91	3,524	3	1	0530-2030	3/148	9/6	Tracy Fox
Union	1	165	11,613	9	6	*0230-2030	26/594	33/47	Vernon Kleen
Vermilion	3	141	7,078	14	10	0530-2100*	30/246	53/19	Marilyn Campbell
Wabash	1	77	1,234	10	5	*0515-2000	10/101	16/20	Gary Adams
Warren	3	49	786	8	5	0700-1830	8/10	10/2	Lynne Schoonover
Washington	1	87	704	6	3	0615-2000	3/48	12/1	Martin Kemper
Wayne	1	49	236	1	1	0530-2315*	6/139	9/3	George Rose
White	1	94	1,185	9	6	0545-1930	6/181	14/18	Mark Fridley
Whiteside	4	103	2,222	5	3	0600-2000	9/271	8/18	Carol Jackley
Will	4	162	19,375	53	21	*0430-1900	65/685	102/65	Jim Kelly
Williamson	1	123	3,781	10	4	*0400-1815	11/257	14/30	Tracy Evans
Winnebago	4	153	15,745	29	15	*0030-2100*	78/542	102/36	Jack Armstrong
Woodford	3	102	3,558	4	2	0530-1800	7/122	13/10	Brenda Garman
TOTAL (101)			520,970	1430	707		2459/23942 26,401	3120/1957 5,077	

Table 7.

there were no new species added to the state SBC list this year, the composite list remains at 321 species.

COMMENTS

The records that were set were, for the most part, only a slight increase over the previous record. On the down side, it was obvious that Carolina Wrens had declined (as a result of the extremely harsh winter), but, what about the warbler and thrush totals, especially for those species that strictly migrate through the state? It looked like a "Silent Spring." Party after party, and county after county, reported few (if any) Veeries, Swainson's, or Gray-cheeked Thrushes; the same was true, perhaps to a lesser degree, for some of the normally expected warblers such as Golden-winged, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Bay-breasted. Are there any clues or speculations as to why this happened and was it widespread throughout the entire spring?

In addition to the paucity of birds, some observers were hampered by the flood waters of the Mississippi River which had inundated some of their better birding areas and made others inaccessible. Even though this was a problem in some parts of the state, it was viewed in a positive manner in other areas because of the increased habitat for shorebirds.

Table 7. Table 7 is probably the most useful table in the entire report because it shows county statistics. Without the details of this table the results of this report could not be analyzed in a meaningful way. The columns in this Table are as follows: 1) the county; 2) the Area (1, 2, 3 or 4) within the state that the county occurs; 3) the number of species identified; 4) the number of countable birds reported; 5) the number of participating birders in the county; 6) the number of birding parties in the county; 7) the beginning and ending time (in the 24-hour system with owling hours before and/or after daylight hours marked by an asterisk "*"); 8) the number of party miles walked (W) and driven (D); 9) the number of party hours walked (W) and driven (D); and 10) the county compiler.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As usual, credit for this report goes to everyone who counted birds on Count Day. Everyone's assistance is very much appreciated. Many thanks, in particular, to the county coordinators and compilers (identified in Table 7) whose dedication and continued support are very much appreciated. For some, that's been all 30 years. Special thanks to Dottie Kissick (IDNR data operator) for data entry and retrieval so that this report could be completed much more easily and timely. As a result of everyone's collective efforts, the 2001 Spring Bird Count is now a part of Illinois' ornithological history and can be acknowledged as another very successful event. Thanks to all.

Vernon M. Kleen, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Division, 524 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, IL 62701.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
2002 SPRING BIRD COUNT
Saturday, 4 May 2002

Bird Finding Guide

A nature field guide to the Illinois River Valley at Chautauqua and Emiquon National Wildlife Refuges

by Thomas V. Lerczak

Chautauqua and Emiquon National Wildlife Refuges (NWR), in west-central Illinois, together function as an ecological centerpiece of the Illinois River Valley. In addition to their wildlife values, the refuges provide prime wildlife viewing and recreational areas for the public. This article focuses on several key observation areas at the refuges and selected nearby sites, which provide the visitor with a sample of the major wildlife habitat types found in this unique part of Illinois, and, as such, provide birders with opportunities to catalog many species.

SPECIAL NOTE

A compass will be useful in locating landmarks mentioned in the following text. Binoculars are a must for picking out important landmarks and observing wildlife from a distance.

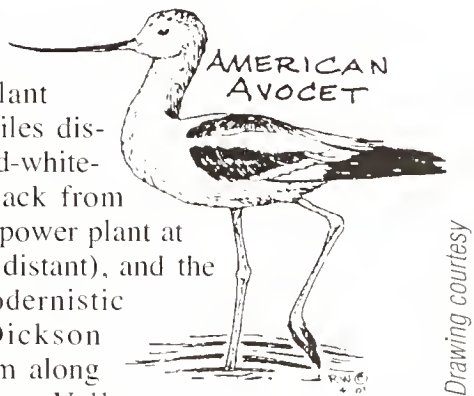
ESTIMATED LENGTH (TIME) OF TOUR

With an early start and without spending too much time in any one particular location, it should be possible to cover this entire tour in one day. A more leisurely pace, however, is suggested, spreading this tour over two days.

STOP #1. A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE ILLINOIS RIVER VALLEY AT HENRY ALLAN GLEASON NATURE PRESERVE, MASON COUNTY

Directions: *In Havana, locate the intersection of Promenade Street and U.S. Route 136 (Laurel Ave.). Then proceed east on U.S. Route 136 for 5.4 miles to County Road (CR) 2130E. Turn left (north) on CR 2130E. Continue north on this road 3.5 miles to the T-intersection at the Manito Road (CR 2000N). Turn right (east) on the Manito Road. Continue east for 1.7 miles to CR 2300E. Turn left (north) on CR 2300E. Continue on this road for 2.0 miles. The parking area for H.A. Gleason Nature Preserve is on the left. (Be aware that in a dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve, everything is protected by law. Groups of 25 and over require a special visitation permit from the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission.) Follow the footpath directly west to the preserve. Continue up the path to the top of the first rise, then turn north to the top of the larger hill known as Devil's Tower.*

From the top of this large hill (actually a stabilized sand dune), several important landmarks are visible: the smokestack from Havana's power plant at 230° (11.2 miles distant), the red-and-white-striped smokestack from the Duck Creek power plant at 335° (6.7 miles distant), and the light brown modernistic buildings of Dickson Mounds Museum along the Illinois River Valley bluffs at 260° (11 miles distant) — the final destination of this tour. Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge, on the bottomlands of the Illinois River, lies between 250° and 320.°



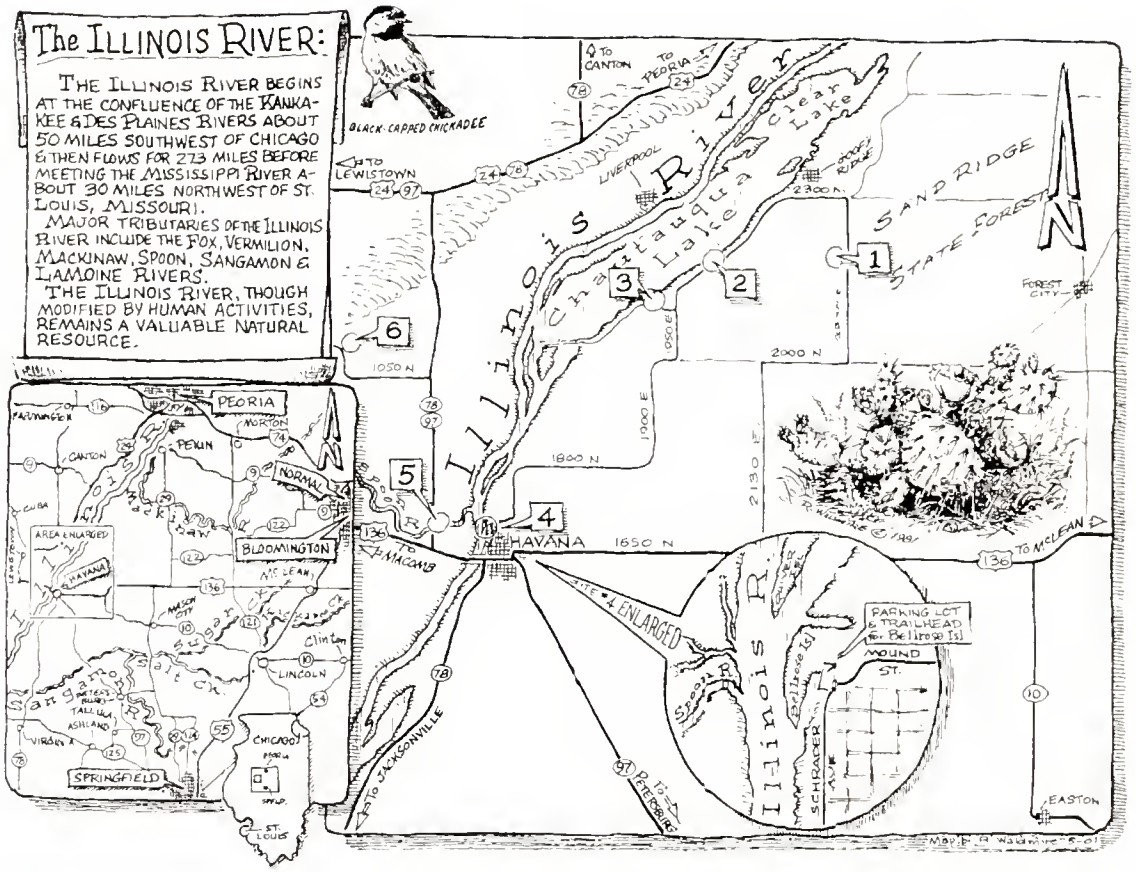
Drawing courtesy of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

The state of Illinois is organized into 14 areas called natural divisions. These divisions are defined not by political boundaries but by factors such as geological history, bedrock, topography, flora, fauna, and soil type. You are standing within the Illinois River and Mississippi River Sand Areas Natural Division. The distant wooded bluffs and beyond are part of the Western Forest-Prairie Natural Division. Between these two natural divisions is the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois River Bottomlands Natural Division. (For more information on the natural divisions of Illinois see the winter 1997 issue of "The Illinois Steward" magazine, the winter 1999-2000 issue of "Illinois Audubon", or contact the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission at 309-543-2744.)

Prior to settlement of Illinois by Americans of European descent (i.e., for all practical purposes, before the 1800s), about two thirds of the state consisted of various types of prairie (mainly a mixture of grasses and wildflowers). Today less than one-tenth of one percent of the original prairies remain in many small, scattered patches. The 110-acre H. A. Gleason Nature Preserve contains native sand prairie and savanna remnants. Plants adapted to dry and nutrient-poor conditions survive very well at this preserve. Fire-tolerant blackjack and black oaks (with hybrids) are the dominant trees. Prickly pear cactus and little bluestem grass are common across the prairie, giving this preserve a certain "western" feel.

This site is a good place to scan the sky for soar-

ing raptors. During the warmer months you may see Lark Sparrows and Blue Grosbeaks, which like the sandy soil for nesting, as well as a variety of grassland birds. Amphibians seen here include ornate box turtle, six-lined racerunner, and bull snake. Also, note the small mounds of bare sand throughout the prairie; these were excavated by plains pocket gophers.



STOP #2. CHAUTAUQUA NWR EAGLE BLUFF PUBLIC ACCESS AREA

Directions: *From H. A. Gleason Nature Preserve continue north on CR 2300E for 1.0 mile to CR 2300N. Turn left (west) on CR 2300N. Continue on this road past Goofy Ridge and along the river valley bluff (Buzzville Road) 3.4 miles to the refuge public access area. The upper parking area has a rest room, viewing platform, and display boards. Then follow the gravel road on the right to the refuge levee access and boat ramp.*

The 4,488-acre Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for biodiversity with wildlife as the No. 1 priority. Consequently, certain areas of the refuge may be closed to the public at certain times of the year for bird migration. Signs are normally posted to indicate closed areas. When the main levee is open to the public, you are free to walk at will beyond the gate. Occasionally, the main refuge levee — which leads from the cross levee parking area around the south pool to the refuge headquarters — is open to private vehicles. On these special days, usually during National Wildlife Refuge Week in October and International Migratory Bird Day in May, the public is invited to "Ride the Refuge." A special interpretive "Ride the Refuge" brochure is available from refuge staff or through the Emiquon Audubon Society.

Chautauqua NWR illustrates the ecological concept that species diversity is directly related to habitat diversity. Spend some time here paying careful attention to the different bird species attracted to the exposed mud flats, shallow-water wetlands, deep open water in the north pool, willow thickets, bluff woodlands, floodplain forests, and other wildlife habitats. During the waterfowl migration, diving and dabbling ducks segregate themselves very nicely according to water levels: deep water and divers in the north pool, shallow water and dabblers in the south pool. American White Pelicans have recently started using the Illinois River Valley in large numbers during both spring and fall migrations. July through September is usually the best time to see shorebirds on mud flats in the south pool. The wildlife refuge is recognized as a regionally significant site that provides critical habitat for shorebird species of international concern. Tens of thousands of shorebirds can be seen here at one time if conditions are right. The refuge has attracted at least 37 species of shorebirds including American Avocet, Buff- breasted Sandpiper, all three phalarope species, and Piping Plover. Rarities include Ruff, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, and Black-necked Stilt. During spring migration, the river is usually in flood, and mud flats are scarce. At least 31 species of waterfowl have also been seen here, and the open water in fall can attract hundreds of thousands of ducks and geese to various areas to rest and feed.

For the last several years (as of 2001), an active Bald Eagle nest has been visible at the "snag forest" (a large area of standing dead timber) just to the right of the cross levee in the north pool. The resident eagles are usually perched near their nest or foraging over the water for fish. During the winter, Bald Eagles are highly visible standing on the bare ice and perching in trees all around the refuge. Be sure to read the refuge display boards at the upper parking area before departing for the next stop on this tour.

STOP #3. CHAUTAUQUA NATURE TRAIL

Directions: *From Eagle Bluff Public Access, turn*

right and proceed 1.0 mile to the refuge headquarters road with the large sign proclaiming "Illinois River National Wildlife and Fish Refuges." The gravel road leads to a parking area in front of the refuge office, where the Chautauqua Nature Trail begins.

Stop at the refuge headquarters and visit with the refuge staff. A variety of brochures are available in addition to a bird check list for the Illinois River National Wildlife and Fish Refuges (Chautauqua, Emiquon, and Meredosia Refuges) plus information on the latest wildlife sightings. Armed with this information, you are now ready to hike the short and easy Chautauqua Nature Trail near the headquarters parking area. At the head of the trail, pick up an interpretive brochure. The trail leads through a black oak sand forest along the river valley bluffs. Along the trail there are three observation platforms overlooking the refuge's south pool. The middle platform has a mounted spotting telescope. Typical bottomland forest species as well as other breeders occurring here include Barred Owl, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, six species of woodpeckers, Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Wood Thrush, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and Red-eyed Vireo. Most shorebird species mentioned above as well as terns, gulls, herons, and other waterfowl can be seen from the overlook.

STOP #4. BELLROSE ISLAND (HAVANA PARK DISTRICT)

Directions: *From the entrance road to the refuge headquarters, turn right (south). Continue south to the T-intersection at the Manito Road. Turn right (west) and follow this road 6 miles to Havana. Just after the coal docks bridge, which passes across several railroad tracks, turn right (west) on Mound Ave. Continue on this street to the fourth stop sign at Schrader Ave. Turn left on Schrader. Almost immediately, just past the brown house on the right and before the privately owned Tall Timbers Campground entrance, turn right and bear to the right, directly down a steep, sandy slope to the Havana Park District parking area and entrance to Bellrose Island.*

Although once an island, today Bellrose Island is actually a peninsula. Follow the trail from the parking area through the mature bottomland forest directly to the Illinois River. In some areas, you may notice an unusually large number of standing dead trees. Many of these resulted from the Great Flood of 1993. The large cottonwood and silver maple trees, alive and dead, attract a variety of cavity-nesting birds. Look especially for Pileated Woodpeckers, common in the mature bottomland forests along the Illinois River, and Prothonotary Warblers (present only during the warmer months), a specialty along river bottomlands. At the river bank, you are directly opposite the mouth of the Spoon River and Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge. Before returning to your vehicle, sit against a log and spend a few minutes simply watching and listening to the active river life around you, both river traffic and wildlife. Then remember to recall these moments during your final stop on this tour at Dickson Mounds Museum.

As you pass through Havana, look for the non-native Eurasian Tree Sparrows. With their entire western hemispheric population centered on St. Louis, where they were originally released in 1870, this species has widened its distribution by following major river valleys. Non-native Eurasian Collared-Doves have also been sighted in Havana, especially near grain bins along the river.

STOP #5. EMIQUON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Directions: *From the Bellrose Island parking area, turn right (south) on Schrader and continue south through Havana to Dearborn Street (U.S. Route 136/State Route 78/State Route 97). Turn right (west) and follow State Route 78/97 over the Illinois River bridge to Fulton County (note, while crossing the river, the power plant smokestacks, originally located from atop H. A. Gleason Nature Preserve, can be seen on your left). Before long you will have to turn right (north) to continue on State Route 78/97. Six tenths of a mile after turning north on State Route 78/97, just before the Spoon River bridge, turn right into the Spoon River Public Access Area at Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge.*

The Frank C. Bellrose Nature Trail begins at the yellow gate and follows along the Spoon River, eventually looping back to the starting point. For a more challenging hike without trails, follow the north bank of the Spoon River to its confluence with the Illinois River, just across the river from Bellrose Island. In this area you will pass near Horseshoe Slough, formerly a part of the tortuously meandering Spoon River.

In direct contrast to H. A. Gleason Nature Preserve, plants of this bottomland forest are highly adapted to periodic flooding from the Illinois River. Soils, deposited by past flood waters, are silty and dark with a high water-holding capacity. Not surprisingly, blackjack and black oaks are entirely absent, replaced by a flood-tolerant, silver maple-dominated forest. A few species that can be found here include Pileated and Red-headed Woodpeckers, Glue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Prothonotary Warbler among other typical bottomland forest species.

Emiquon NWR currently encompasses 1,305 acres. The refuge, when complete, will total 11,122 acres. As you travel to Dickson Mounds Museum, all of the bottomlands you will be passing through on both sides of the road are within the proposed refuge acquisition boundary. These areas were once among the most biologically diverse bottomlands along the entire river valley (for more information, see the book "Waterfowl of Illinois," by Steve Havera, published by the Illinois Natural History Survey in 1999. See Meadowlark 10:46-51. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is continuing to pursue the completion of Emiquon NWR, which has broad public support.

STOP #6. DICKSON MOUNDS MUSEUM

Directions: *Turn right (north) from the parking area at Emiquon NWR and follow the signs 4.0 miles to the final stop on this tour, Dickson Mounds Museum (hours: daily from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; telephone 309-547-3721).*

Just after turning onto the museum entrance road you will have passed from the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois River Bottomlands Natural Division to the Western Forest-Prairie Natural Division. Check flooded fields here in spring for a variety of shorebirds. Both godwits and Snowy Plover have been seen here. Surrounding wet fields can be good for American Golden-Plover and Lapland Longspur in spring. Before observing exhibits, museum staff will direct you to the third floor to watch a short video describing the Illinois River Valley and its importance to past and present cultures. Following the video, you will be directed to the museum's observation deck (bring your compass, binoculars, and spotting scope).

As you are looking out onto the broad floodplain of the Illinois River Valley, try to find the sand prairie at H.A. Gleason Nature Preserve at 80o (11 miles distant) and the smokestack at Havana's power plant. Think back on the video you just saw, past cultures inhabiting this area long ago, and the time you spent listening and observing on the banks of the Illinois River at Bellrose Island. While viewing the distant refuges within the context of the entire Illinois River Valley, a landscape that has received many environmental abuses over the years, it is an appropriate time to consider that we are only the latest in a long line of many destined to eventually pass this area and its abundant natural resources on to future generations. Have we made improvements during our tenure? Or will future generations have less? Chautauqua and Emiquon National Wildlife Refuges would seem to allow us plenty of room for optimism.

For more information on birding, contact: Emiquon Audubon Society, 503 S. Pearl, Havana, Illinois 62644; 309-543-2744.

For information on restaurants and overnight accommodations, contact: Havana Area Chamber of Commerce, 227 West Main Street, Havana, Illinois 62644; 309-543-3528.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Thomas V. Lerczak, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, 17500 E. CR 1950N, PO Box 590, Havanna, IL 62644.

Photo Quiz — Answers from Vol 10 No. 3

In our last issue we featured photos of two immature jaegers to test your identification skills. Compare Photo A with Photo B. Photo B shows much dark on the head with a lighter nape tapering to a darker back. Photo A shows much more light on the neck and nape. Photo B's nape is distinctly streaked with darkish brown, while Photo A's nape is very thinly streaked at best, but with a very thinly streaked darkish brown crown. Also note the proportion of dark versus light on the bills of these birds. Photo B's bill has a one-third black to two-thirds blue proportion, while Photo A is more 50/50. Finally, note the light-colored tips at the edge of the primaries on Photo B, which is not seen on Photo A. Put these all together and you'll discover that Photo A is a Long-tailed Jaeger (taken 13 September 2000 at Lake Chautauqua, Mason County, by Dennis Oehmke) and Photo B is a Parasitic Jaeger (taken 13 September 2000 at Lake Chautauqua, Mason County, by Dennis Oehmke).

Photo A

Photo B

Seasonal Highlights

The Big Day That Almost Wasn't: Fourth Snowy Plover Record for Illinois

by Dan Kassebaum

On 28 April 2001, Vicki Lang, Keith McMullen, and I planned a big day of birding in southern Illinois. Like most birders who enjoy big days, our goal was to break the old record and in this case, to establish a new high count for most species seen in Illinois in a single day for the month of April. If you've done enough big days, you can tell early on if this is going to be "the day". Few misses can be afforded, and stake-out birds had better be there when you arrive. Good weather is an obvious must, but light wind and a clear sky are also beneficial especially at night when listening for owls, rails, and goatsuckers.

Ferne Clyffe State Park is the most reliable spot in southern Illinois for Whip-poor-will and Chuck-will's-widow, and we began our day hearing both those species as well as an Eastern Screech-Owl about the din of spring peepers and green frogs. The next stop was along the Lower Cache River for rails. We heard King Rail, Sora, and Least Bittern, but no Virginia Rail — our first big miss.

Our next stop was Lake Mermet to search for Purple Gallinule. At night, Mermet is a magical place. It's amazing how vocal many bird species can be and in the case of rails, how much easier it can be to locate them by call than by physically flushing them from the marsh. Mermet rarely fails to produce. On this night, it did.

When we arrived at Pomona to listen for the dawn chorus of songbirds, we began to realize this was not going to be a record-setting day. We also knew that with waterfowl and shorebirds it can be either feast or famine. If you plan your big day too early you'll get plenty of waterfowl but you lose out on the later waves of migrant songbirds. If you plan your big day too late, you miss out on the lingering waterfowl and good shorebird habitat. By late April in southern Illinois, most everything has been drained to plant row crops for waterfowl season in the fall. If water levels are favorable there should be plenty of ducks and thousands of shorebirds. Unfortunately, water is often drained too early, leaving little if any standing water at the proper levels for any type of breeding. Every last tillable inch gets drained dry as a bone and plowed. As expected, our visit to Cypress Creek was disappointing. Lack of habitat resulted in few waterfowl and shorebirds.

Snowy Plover at Grassy Slough Preserve, Belknap, Johnson County. 28 April 2001. Photo by Dan Kassebaum.

But we still had Carlyle Lake where water levels were perfect this spring for shorebirds. A few more local stops in southern Illinois for Henslow's Sparrow and Barn Owl and we would be on our way.

As fate would have it, however, we would not be going to Carlyle. Instead we would be going to Paducah, Kentucky. Rural southern Illinois is not the place for a car to break down on a Saturday afternoon, nor is it a place where a convenient solution for this situation is easily found.

Driving a gravel road in Johnson County, we hit something and blew out a tire. The tire was beyond repair and nowhere in Metropolis, Illinois, could we find a shop that carried the tire we needed so we headed for the Sears in Paducah.

Still, after the tire was repaired, we had plenty of daylight left, so in true birder spirit, we continued. We nixed the drive to Carlyle and salvaged the remainder of the day in southern Illinois. We went to Little Grassy Preserve, just southwest of Belknap near the Cache River, where we knew we'd find some good shorebird habitat. Not expecting much, we scanned the mud flats with our binoculars. That's when I noticed a pale plover at the far end of the flat. At first, I thought, Piping Plover, (*Charadrius melodus*), which is rare but not unexpected in southern Illinois. Keith got on the bird with his scope and I could tell by the tone of his voice he wasn't too sure about the initial identification. With the new Sibley guide in hand we scrutinized the bird and realized we had stumbled upon a Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) nearly in spring plumage. The bird had a dark, thin bill compared with the breeding- plumaged Piping Plover's stubbier orange bill, tipped with black. The Snowy we saw also had a black side patch as compared with the Piping Plover's narrow, usually broken breast band.

Knowing the significance of the find, I returned to the car to get my camera and properly document the bird. Keith and Vicki remained behind so I could approach more closely to get better photos. Sneaking up on shorebirds can be done, but only with a bit of caution. If you move slowly, pausing occasionally as the birds get used to your presence, they will settle down. If not for the incessant and alarming calls of the Killdeer this technique would be much easier. Leaving behind your tripod also seems to help. Eventually I was able to get very close and began to take as many pictures as I could before the birds flew.

Had it not been for our flat tire and lackluster morning, we would have gone north to Carlyle as planned and missed out on this rare find.

By nightfall, Keith and I were tired and decided to stay in Marion for the evening. Away from home and our computers, we were regretfully hampered in our efforts to post information about the plover. We called several birders, but no one was home. For the moment, the best we could do was leave a message with Frank Bennett hoping he could post to IBET, Illinois' birding list serve. Unfortunately, Frank didn't check his phone messages that day so we weren't able to get the word out until Sunday afternoon 29 April 2001. Eventually, Frank got the message, and he and Steve Bailey relocated the plover at Belknap. It's a shame that in this age of cell phones and computers, such a rare bird could be present for at least four days and be seen by only five birders. The final sighting was on Tuesday, 1 May 2001.

This is the fourth record for Snowy Plover in Illinois. The three previous records of this very rare vagrant in the state are from May. The first record occurred on the cinder flats at Lake Springfield, Sangamon County, 7 May 1986 (Bohlen 1986). This bird was discovered by H. David Bohlen and photographed by Dennis Oehmke. The second record occurred near Dickson Mounds, Fulton County, 10 and 11 May 1987 (Bohlen 1989), and, according to Bohlen (1989), was documented by Kevin Richmond and Michael Baum. The third record occurred north of Gorham in the Fountain Bluff region of Jackson County on 19 May 1993. This bird was discovered by Todd Fink and surprisingly went unpublished until 1996 when it appeared in Southern Illinois Birds (Robinson 1996).

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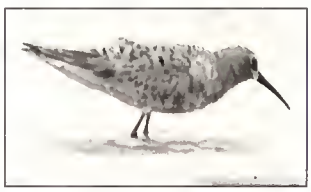
Dan Kassebaum, 308 E B St., Belleville, IL 62220-1411; kdan@htc.net

Curlew Sandpiper in Lake County

by Robert Erickson

On 10 June, 2001, I went to the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Lake County hoping to find some late migrants. The shorebird sanctuary was teeming with sandpipers. Scanning the mud flats, I counted over 100 shorebirds. Then it was time to scrutinize each bird through my Kowa telescope. Halfway through the flock, I saw a bird with a strong, reddish color. It wasn't a Red Knot because the bird had a long, down-curved bill. I had found a Curlew Sandpiper (Calidris ferruginea). The bird was about the same size as a nearby Dunlin. I was also able to get a good look at its white rump when it flew.

I next alerted the birding community via Richard Biss, had some lunch, and went back to Great Lakes to wait for the birders. Richard Biss, his wife, and children were the first to arrive. Rich confirmed the bird's identity. Soon more birders arrived; among them were Carolyn Fields and Sue Friscia. Many other birders added the species to their list.



Curlew Sandpiper. 10 June 2001. Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Lake County. Photo by Carolyn Fields.

The Curlew Sandpiper was a lifer for me, and certainly was for others. It was Wes Serafin's American Birding Association lifer number 600 and Al Stokie's 300th Lake County, Illinois bird.

The first state record of this very rare vagrant in Illinois occurred at Rend Lake 23 July 1976, according to H. David Bohlen in "The Birds of Illinois" (Indiana University Press 1989). Through 1987, there were six more records from northeastern Illinois for this species, plus a record from Vermilion County in central Illinois 16-19 May 1986, discovered by Steven Bailey (American Birds 40:478). All these birds were in breeding plumage.

The Lake County Curlew Sandpiper was last

seen 13 June 2001. The range of number of days stayed for the other Illinois records is from one to nine.

Robert Erickson, 830 Corey Lane, #312, Wheeling, IL 60090.

Jersey County Anhinga

by Joe Suchecki

One great advantage of attending an annual IOS meeting is the large number of good birders in the field. Chances are someone is going to find a really good bird. The 2001 annual meeting held at Pere Marquette State Park near St. Louis on 19 May was no exception.

One of the IOS field trips was led by local expert birders Frank Glaser and Gilbert Ives. After spending the first hour of the trip birding Pere Marquette for passerines, Frank and Gil led the group to the Illinois River in search of water birds. We worked our way north from Pere Marquette Lodge along Route 100 and stopped along the road adjacent to a backwater slough. Scanning the water we found the normal inhabitants including Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Double-crested Cormorant, Mallard, and Wood Duck foraging along the edge of the slough where the rising Illinois River waters met the floodplain forest. We also saw some migrating warblers and a Red-headed Woodpecker working the dead trees on the other side of the slough.

A birder asked me to look at something she had found sitting in the trees on the far side of the slough. She pointed out a black shape, almost totally obscured by vegetation. With my binoculars, I could only see a black shape with what appeared to be vertical white streaking about 10 meters high in a tall tree. Because it was obscured by branches and leaves, I could not even tell if it was a bird.

Puzzled and wanting to obtain a better view and determine what this black-and-white object actually was, I retrieved my spotting scope. And, as birders often experience, by the time I set up the scope, the black shape was no longer there. We scanned the skies and saw nothing. We continued to scan the slough and a few minutes later I noticed a bird flying over the water and instinctively yelled — Anhinga!

Sure enough, flying north over the slough about 70-80 meters away was a large cormorant-like bird. However, this bird was different. It had a long, straight neck with a long, straight bill. It also had a relatively long and obviously wedge-shaped tail with brown terminal band, and there was distinctive white streaking across the upper wings and back. The bird circled a couple of times around the slough, gained some altitude with outstretched wings, and then headed south along the river and out of sight. The bird gave everyone just enough time to get good looks and cinch the identification.

A fairly common inhabitant of freshwater lakes and wetlands in the far south, Anhingas (*Anhinga anhinga*) are most often seen in Florida and other Gulf Coast States. Both the Illinois and Missouri checklists categorize the Anhinga as "casual" and require documentation of all sightings. Bohlen (1989) lists several historical records for Illinois and questions whether records from the late 19th century around Cairo, Illinois, where they were noted as common, provides for the possibility that this species may once have bred in the state. Sibley (2000) indicates a much more restricted breeding range from Eastern Texas and southern Arkansas to coastal South Carolina, and Illinois records are most likely due to wandering or post-breeding dispersal.

Bohlen lists four records between 1977 and 1986, mostly from southern Illinois. More recently, accepted Illinois records for this species include: Monroe County, July1993; DuPage County, April 1995 (first northern Illinois record); and Williamson County, September 1998 (Johnson et al. 1998, Johnson and Stotz 1999). The Jersey County Anhinga is only the second record of the species in the St. Louis area (personal communication Bill Rowe), the first record being the 1993 Monroe County bird seen and photographed by IDNR staff at the floodwaters of Fountain Creek (personal communication, Randy Korotev).

The handful of records for this species indicates that sighting an Anhinga in Illinois is indeed a rare event. Luckily, for those of us on the trip, the Jersey County Anhinga gave everyone a great look and was a new state bird or lifer for many people. Unfortunately, many birders later in the day and the next day failed to relocate the bird.

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Snowy Plover
Drawing by David J. Athans

Field Notes

The 2001 Spring Migration

by Paul R. Clyne

The 2001 spring migration showed wide-scale patterns within Illinois, albeit slightly complicated, and with a pronounced mix of positive and negative reviews. The southern third of the state was graced with a heavy dose of significant early arrivals, big numbers of waterfowl, and truly astonishing numbers and diversity of shorebirds. Carlyle Lake in particular stands out as the right place to have been, with record-breaking hordes of ducks and shorebirds, as well as huge flocks of starlings and blackbirds lingering later than usual into March.

Outside of southern Illinois, the season seemed a bit poor, or mediocre at best, although a good number of notably early migrant arrival dates were also obtained in the central and northern parts of the state. Few significant late migrant dates were reported anywhere in Illinois.

The combination of numerous early arrivals and few late departures superficially suggests an early migration overall, but larger field data do not support this interpretation. It was a harsh winter, and many of the early dates in February and March involved isolated individuals and flocks amid brief southerly fronts. The main movements of hardy migrants (especially early spring passerines) were, in fact, later than usual by as much as two weeks. Similarly, many of the later spring neotropical insectivores made isolated early appearances, while peak passages were unspectacular by either date or volume, and they went downhill from there.

A respectable total of **12 species set new Illinois high counts**, and another **18 species reached maximum spring highs for the state. Fifteen of the new records were set at Carlyle Lake**, and two were from other areas in the south. Central Illinois observers provided nine records from scattered sites, and northern Illinois birders supplied only four new state spring-season maxima (but no all-time highs), all from different sites.

The high counts were dominated by three species groups. Seven species of waterfowl, nine shorebirds, and four species of largely overwintering blackbirds (coupled with European Starlings) formed the core. Additional non-passerine maximum counts were confined to Sandhill Crane and Ring-billed Gull. Only six neotropical migrant passerines reached new peaks, and numbers for such species were unimpressive to discouraging statewide.

This spring's roster of notably early migrants included **record early arrivals for 27 species**, plus second earliest dates for 15 additional species. Passerines dominated the list, with boldfaced arrival dates for over a third of the species recorded and earliest or second earliest migrant dates for 23 species covering a broad spectrum of species groups. Alas, none of these records were documented except as IORC review-list species; indeed, the only documentation of early migration received statewide was for a Canada Warbler in April. No documentations of late migrants were submitted except as required for the Spring Bird Count.

In the following recapitulation of the season by species groups, several records are pending IORC review, but controversial and undocumented reports are omitted.

Loons through Cranes

Highlights of the season include **Western Grebe in late May** at Lake Springfield, an **Anhinga** at Pere Marquette State Park (see seasonal highlights), **four Tricolored Herons** from scattered sites, and one or two **Glossy Ibises** in Madison County. Twelve of the 33 waterfowl species reported this spring attained noteworthy high counts. The high concentrations likely reflect, in part, the tardy thaw of waters, which impeded early movements, but see also the previous winter season report for late winter concentrations, especially among geese. The only exceptional waterfowl species reported was a **King Eider** that overwintered at Lake Springfield.

Raptor movements were unremarkable overall, although Bald Eagles attained near-record numbers at Lake Chautauqua. Rails were poorly represented, especially in northern Illinois. A record flight of **nearly 6,000 Sandhill Cranes** over northeastern Illinois on 18 March highlighted this species' widespread showing this spring.

Shorebirds through Woodpeckers

In the spring summaries published in the Illinois journals dating to 1985, shorebird species totals range from 31-33 species, except in three exceptionally good years (1986, 1996, and 2000), when the total climbed to 35 species. That threshold was attained once again in spring 2001. In fact, including the **Curlew Sandpiper** (see seasonal highlights and photo) at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, the number of shorebird species recorded in spring 2001 was a remarkable 36. A remarkable 30 species were noted at Carlyle Lake alone, including four species reported nowhere else. The greatest diversity was on 18 May, when 19 species were found there. Birders at that site provided the highest counts of the season for 19 species of shorebirds; eight of these counts set new

records, including 80 **inland Ruddy Turnstones**, **750 Semipalmated Plovers**, **2,500 Semipalmated Sandpipers**, and **800 Dunlin**. Rarities found at Carlyle Lake included Piping Plover, three Black-necked Stilts, **Whimbrel** and **Ruff**. Elsewhere in the state, new high counts were set by **400 Killdeer** at Lake Shelbyville and **87 American Woodcock** in Knox County. The other best bird of the season besides the Curlew Sandpiper was the Snowy Plover photographed in Johnson County (see seasonal highlights and photo).

Gull diversity was unexceptional. The most unusual species identified was Little Gull, which occurred at two inland sites. Laughing Gull had not been previously found in Illinois in March, so records from four different sites in early to mid-March significantly changed that species' distribution profile. A well-studied, apparent **hybrid Laughing x Ring-billed Gull** at a site near Lake Calumet where this species has summered since 1997 (a Kentucky Fried Chicken parking lot!) hints tantalizingly at a possible first Illinois nesting record.

Making its fifth Illinois appearance, the **White-winged Dove** has been found the past three years since its occurrence in 1998. It was yet **another terrible season for cuckoos**. Goatsuckers, Chimney Swift, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird put in early appearances, but records were otherwise routine. There was little encouraging news for the declining Red-headed Woodpecker.

Flycatchers through Titmice

Among the best birds of the season was a **Say's Phoebe** at Chicago; there are but two previous spring reports of this species (including one from last year under IORC review) and seven from fall. While Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is now found annually in Illinois, it was unusually well represented in McLean and adjacent Woodford Counties, where four singles were noted 4-9 May. Very few wintering Northern Shrikes lingered into the spring season.

Blue Jays are among the easiest songbirds to spot and count in their diurnal migration, but few Illinois high counts exceed 200 birds, so a flight of **886 Blue Jays in one hour** at Evanston is a significant new record. A concentration of **2,340 Cliff Swallows** is the highest number reported for that species in years. Four Black-capped Chickadees reported from Effingham County were south of their usual range.

Nuthatches through Waxwings

Red-breasted Nuthatches showed a fair scatter of winter records to central and even southern Illinois, but the return flight was exceedingly weak and effectively confined to the northeast. **Sedge and Marsh Wrens showed the worst spring passages reported in the history of this journal**; average high counts for both species are a dozen or more individuals, rather than the isolated counts of two and three found this year.

The **thrushes suffered disastrous migrations**, combining late arrivals, early departures, and very poor high counts at most sites. Even at migrant traps such as Chicago's lakefront parks, where fair numbers of thrushes can be virtually assumed on any day in the first three weeks of May, observers noted an inexplicable paucity of dates of occurrence. American Pipits had another good season. The variable early spring passage of Cedar Waxwings was fairly strong, while the May passage was the worst in recent years.

Warblers through Tanagers

Two thirds of the 36 warbler species logged boldfaced arrival dates; four of these were record early arrivals for the state. All but Mourning and Connecticut had made it as far north as Chicago's Jackson Park by 1 May. Only two species (Cape May and Black-throated Blue Warblers) showed remarkable late dates. Significant high counts were few, and no species attained all- time highs. Notably scarce were

As a printing aid, the following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:

EA = earliest arrival(s) * = documented record m.ob = many observers imm. = immature(s)
MC = Maximum count(s) **IORC** = Illinois Ornithological Records Committee :ph. = photographed/videotaped pr = pair(s)
LD = latest departure(s) SBC = Spring Bird Count (5 May 2001) ad. = adult(s) subad. = subadult(s)

Btms = Bottoms
CA = Conservation Area
Co(s) = County (Counties)
FP = Forest Preserve
L = Lake
P = Park
(N)Psv= (Nature) Preserve
NWR = National Wildlife Refuge
R = River
SF = State Forest
SP = State Park
Wds = Woods

Carl.C/F/B = Carlyle Lake (C=Clinton Co)/(F=Fayette Co)/(B=Bond Co)
Carp.P = Carpenter Park, Springfield (Sangamon Co)
Chau = Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge (Mason Co)
Chi = Chicago (Cook Co)
Clin.L = Clinton Lake (DeWitt Co)
CrabOr. = Crab Orchard Nat'l Wildlife Refuge (Williamson Co)
CypCrk = Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge (Pulaski Co)
Evanston = Evanston (Cook Co)
Ewing P = Ewing Park, Bloomington (McLean Co)
Fermi = Fermilab National Accelerator Laboratory (Du Page Co)
Fishhk = Fishhook Wildlife Management Area (Moultrie Co)
Grant P = Grant Park, Chicago (Cook Co)
GrtLakes = Great Lakes Naval Training Center (Lake Co)
Hennepin L = Hennepin Lake Restoration Area (Putnam Co)
HL = Horseshoe Lake (Madison Co)
IBSP = Illinois Beach State Park (Lake Co)
IL = Illinois
JP = Jackson Park, Chicago (Cook Co)
Knox College = Green Oaks (Knox College field station) (Knox Co)
LCal = Lake Calumet area (southeastern Cook Co)
Linc.P = Lincoln Park, Chicago (Cook Co)
LShel = Lake Shelbyville (Shelby/Moultrie Co)
M.Arb = Morton Arboretum, Lisle (Du Page Co)
Mermet L = Mermet Lake Conservation Area (Massac Co)
MidFk = Middle Fork River County Forest Preserve (Champaign Co)
Montrose = Montrose Point, Chicago (Cook Co)
Palos = Palos area (southwestern Cook Co)
Pomona = Pomona (Jackson Co)
Pr.Rdg = Prairie Ridge State Natural Area (Jasper Co)
Rend L = Rend Lake (Franklin/Jefferson Co)
Rockford = Rockford (Winnebago Co)
Sang.L = Sangchris Lake State Park (Sangamon Co)
Sgmn Co = Sangamon Co
Shab.L = Shabbona Lake State Park (De Kalb Co)
(L) Spfld = (Lake) Springfield (Sangamon Co)
UCCA = Union County Conservation Area (Union Co)
Urbana = Urbana (Champaign Co)
Wash.P = Washington Park, Springfield (Sangamon Co)

Transparent directionals such as e = east(ern), ne = northeast(ern), sc = south-central, etc., are used where relevant. When information on counts greater than one, on sexes, and/or on ages of birds observed is available, it is generally included in parentheses after the date of the record. No number signifies single birds. Headings for species requiring IORC review appear in **CAPITALIZED, UNDERLINED, AND BOLDFACED** fonts; records that are still under review are noted at the end of this report. Noteworthy dates and sites of occurrence and remarkably high counts for the state as a whole or for particular regions of the state are **underlined** and **boldfaced**, and some further editorial remarks are **boldfaced**.

The 1996 DeLorme *Illinois Atlas & Gazetteer* has been used as a standard for spelling of most place names. Remarks on the import of records are informed largely by Bohlen's 1989 *Birds of Illinois* and the subsequently published Illinois journals.

Nashville, Black-throated Blue, Mourning, and Canada Warblers, plus American Redstart. The most unusual warbler of the season was a "**Yellow Palm Warbler**" at Sangchris Lake; see *Meadowlark* 8:59, for the two previously accepted records of this eastern subspecies.

Summer Tanager typically shows a wide scatter of "over-migrant" records in northern Illinois in spring, but there were only four reports from the north this year. A Scarlet Tanager on 10 April is Illinois' earliest.

Sparrows through Finches

Sparrow numbers were generally unimpressive to poor; particularly scarce were Vesper, White- throated, and White-crowned Sparrows. Lincoln's Sparrow showed one healthy count at Chicago's Grant Park but was otherwise poorly represented. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was widespread on significantly early dates. The most unexpected sparrow report at the subspecies level was a"**Gray-headed Junco**" in Sangamon County.

A female **Painted Bunting** at Urbana may provide a first-confirmed Champaign County record. **Three Painted Buntings** returned to the site of last year's first state nesting at East St. Louis, and once again a nest was located.

Huge concentrations of Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds were tallied on 24 March at both Carlyle Lake and Sangamon County. An astonishing **922 Brewer's Blackbirds** at Clinton County and vicinity established a new state high count for the fourth consecutive spring at this area. It was not a flight year for "winter finches."

The foundation of this summary is the detailed information on migration limits and populations as submitted directly to the compiler (or indirectly via the Illinois Department of Natural Resources) by field observers across the state. Information not submitted is not included. For example, reports communicated to local coordinators of taped bird-alerts, reports posted on e-mail, and reports transmitted by word of mouth to another observer are generally wanting here.

Migration limits and maximum counts are provided, where available, from each of the three subsections of Illinois — North, Central, and South — as mapped out in Bohlen's (1978) *Annotated Check-list of the Birds of Illinois*. Additional data are sometimes noted for species and areas of special interest.

Acknowledgments

Our sincere thanks are extended to the following observers, who supplied all the data for the summary. These observers are credited by their initials following each record; disambiguating citation forms are indicated where needed. As in previous reports, the sequencing of observers below is based on alphabetization of last and first initials or citation forms rather than on alphabetization of last names: Alan Anderson, Cindy Alberico, Connie P. Alwood, Jeannie Abbott, Jack & Joyce Armstrong, Kim Ainis, Louise Augustine, Arlene Brei, Dale Birkenholz, Dennis& Susan Beaver, Frank Bennett, H. David Bohlen, Michael Baum, Maury Brucker, Nancy Bent, Paul Biggers, Ray Boehler, Steven Bailey, Toby Brown, Todd E. Bugg, Tadas V. Birutis, Richard & Sigurd Bjorklund (R&SBj), Angelo Capparella, David Currie, Elizabeth Chato, Jeff Chapman, Karin Cassel, Melinda Born-Chapman (MBC), Marilyn F. Campbell, Paul Clyne, Robert Chapel, Scott Carpenter, Bill Davison, Dan Davison, Donald R. Dann, Glyn Dawson, John Durand, Myrna Deaton, Tim Dever, Danny D'az (DDz), Joshua Engel, Robert Erickson, Carolyn Fields, Darlene Fiske, James Funk, Matthew Fraker, Rick Frissora, Sue Friscia, Tyler Funk, Victor Friedman, Urs Geiser, Brian Herriott, Frank Holmes, Given Harper, Ian Hunt, Jim Hampson, Kanae Hirabayashi, K.E. Hanson, Leroy Harrison, Larry L. Hood, Margaret Hollowell, Mary Ann Hoeffliger, Marianne L. Hahn, Roger Hotham, Robert D. Hughes, Scott Hickman, William Huebler, Wayne C. Hochstetler, Mary Hennen (MHn), Lynnette Miller-Ishmael (LMI), Nancy Ingram, Dorothy J. Jackson, Joe Jacyna, Dan Kassebaum, Jim Kelly, Kal Kumar, Martin Kehoe, Chuck Leib, Eric Latturner, Greg Lambeth, James E. Landing, Thomas Lerczak, Vicki Lang, Carolyn Marsh, Keith McMullen, Roger Mayer, Richard D. Messenger, Rhonda S. Monroe, Thomas May, Virginia McCall, Walter Marcisz, Randy Nyboer, Marlys Oosting, Bert & Greet Princen, Helen Parker, Jim & Becky Pumo, Peter J. Page, Roy E. Peterson, Arlo Raim, Bob Russell, David Ramsden, Justin G. Rink, Jennette S. Rader, Kevin Richmond, Michael Retter, Roger Reason, Scott Richardson,William Rowe, Alan Stokie, David E. Semler, Douglas F. Stotz, Darrell J. Shambaugh, Grace Storch, Illinois Ornithological Society field trips (IOS), Jason Starfire, James O. Smith, Leonard Stanley, Marsha Steffen, Richard Sandburg, Randy L. Shonkwiler, StanleyStec, Thomas Schulenberg, Wes Serafin, Wilda Sutherland (WSd), Jeffrey Sundberg (JSg), John Schwegman (JSn), Ken Vail, Dan Wenny, David E. Willard, Daniel T. Williams, Eric Walters, Geoffrey Williamson, Jeffrey Walk, Kenneth Wysocki, Michael Ward, Emiko Yang, Jane Zatta, and James P. Ziebol.

Records not contained in original submissions by the cited observers were contributed by local subcompilers at the following sites: Carlyle L (fide DK); Knox Co (fide MB); McLean Co (fide MR); JP (fide PC); Evanston (fide EW).

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Red-throated Loon

LD: 13-14 Apr (winter plumage), Spoon L (Knox Co) (*MB, LA, KR et al.) — the only report.

Common Loon

EA: 15 Mar, Chau (R&SBj); 17 Mar, HL (KM), 17 Mar (ad.), Carl.C (DK); 19 Mar, JP (PC). **MC**: 19, Sgmn Co, 30 Mar (HDB); 10, Long L (Lake Co), 4 Apr (SH); 3, CrabOr., 16 Apr & 3 May (KM et al.). **LD**: **7 Jun** (ad., trapped in fishing line and stranded in parking lot), Champaign (Champaign Co) — rehabilitated and released at Homer L on 11 Jun (story and photos in Champaign News-Gazette); 30 May (imm.), Buckhart (Sgmn Co) (HDB); 28 May (first-summer, possibly unhealthy), Shab L (DJS); 16 May (ad.), GrtLakes (EW, JE); 3 May (3), CrabOr. (KM et al.).

Pied-billed Grebe

EA: 7 Feb (12), Baldwin L (St. Clair/Randolph Cos) (KM); 12 Mar, JP (KC); 18 Mar, Chn L (RC). **MC**: 37, Sgmn Co, 1 Mar (HDB); 16, HL, 27 Mar (KM); 9, JP, 7 Apr (PC, KC); 9, Shab.L, 14 Apr (DJS). **LD**: 28 May, eleven miles nw of Rushville (Schuyler Co) (LLH); 3 May, CypCrk (KM et al.); 22 Apr (2), JP (PC). Unimpressive statewide.

Horned Grebe

EA: **1 Feb**, Sgmn Co (HDB); 26 Feb, HL (KM); 10 Mar (2), JP (PC, KC). **MC**: 100, Sgmn Co, 27 Mar (HDB); 28, LCal, 26 Mar (DFS); 25, Jasper Co, 24 Mar (KM, IOS). **LD**: 5 May, Coles Co (*TF); 25 Apr, Sang.L (HDB); 13 Apr (2), Grassy L (Union Co) (KM); 12 Apr, JP (KC).

Red-necked Grebe

EA: 18 Mar, Chn.L (RC) — the only report.

Eared Grebe

EA: 19 Mar (breeding plumage), L Spfld (HDB); 26-27 Mar, same site (HDB); 21 Apr, OFallon (St. Clair Co) (DK). **LD**: 24 Apr, OFallon Waste Water Treatment Plant (St. Clair Co) (KM); 14-16 Apr, Spoon L (Knox Co) (LA, KR, MB). Five singles, all early in season.

Western Grebe

One report: **LD**: **23-26 May**, L Spfld (RS, RC, HDB) — **record IL late date**, excluding one summering record from 1978.

American White Pelican

EA: **7 Feb** (27), Baldwin L (St. Clair/Randolph Cos) (KM) — **record early arrival**; 11 Mar (10), Massac Co (FB); 20 Mar (50), L Spfld (HDB). **MC**: **3500+**, HL, 16-24 Mar (JPZ); **2600**, Union Co, 1 Apr (KM); 1407, Rock R backwaters near Colona (Whiteside & Henry Cos), 15 Apr (MB); 1250, Anderson L (Fulton Co), 22 Mar (RC); 400-500+, widewaters of Des Plaines R at Channahon (Will Co), 24 Mar (CA). **LD**: 29 May (7), L Spfld (HDB); 27 May, Carl.C (DK); 27 May, Alton (Madison Co) (DTW).

Double-crested Cormorant
EA: **12 Feb** (400), Rend L (KM); **10 Mar** (55+ in three flocks), n Mississippi R Lock & Dam #12 (Jo Daviess Co) (AA); 11 Mar, L Spfld (HDB); 28 Mar (66 occupied nests), L Renwick (Will Co) (AA). **MC**: 2700, Rend L, 1 Apr (KM); 2500 (evening roost), Riverdale (Cook Co), 18 Apr (WM); 950, Sgmn Co, 7 Apr (HDB); 700, Carl.C, 24 Mar (DK); 570, Clear L (Mason Co), 19 Apr (R&SBj).

ANHINGA
LD: 19 May, n of Pere Marquette SP (Jersey Co) (JS, m.ob). See seasonal highlights.

American Bittern
EA: 29 Mar-5 Apr, Oakwood Btms (Jackson Co) (KM); 5 Apr, s of Lincoln Memorial Garden near Spfld (HDB); 19 Apr, Lockport Prairie, Lockport (Will Co) (CA). **MC**: 2, Danville (Vermilion Co), 21 Apr (SB, RC); 2, JP, 23 Apr (PC, SF). **LD**: 20 May, St. Clair Co (KM, IOS); 10 May, Skokie R NPsv, L Bluff section (Lake Co) (RP); 7 May, Sang.L (HDB).

Least Bittern
EA: 27 Apr (male), Mermet L (FB); 28 Apr, Cadwall (Moultrie Co) (RC); 5 May, McHenry Co (*D&SB); 5 May, LCal (*WM). **LD**: 13 May, Pr.Rdg (LH); 12 May, LCal (WM); 9 May, Exner Marsh CA (McHenry Co) (DF). Singles only.

Great Blue Heron
EA: 15 Mar, JP (PC). **MC**: 162, Chau, 3 May (R&SBj); 129, Clear L (Mason Co), 5 Apr (R&SBj); 72, Carl.C, 27 May (DK); 69 occupied nests, L Renwick and Channahon (Will Co), 28 Mar (AA); 52 occupied nests, Busse Wds (Cook Co), 1 Apr (AA); 50+, Monroe Co Levee (Monroe Co), 15 May (JPZ). **LD**: 20 May, JP (PC,KC). Almost no migration limits reported.

Great Egret
EA: 23 Mar (2), Sauget Marsh (St. Clair Co) (KM); 31 Mar, Will-Cook Road (Cook Co) (UG); 5 Apr, L Spfld (HDB). **MC**: 119, Monroe Co Levee (Monroe Co), 15 May (JPZ); 74 Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery (Mason Co), 12 Apr (R&SBj); 59, Clear L (Mason Co), 3 May (R&SBj); 4, JP, 30 Apr (PC) & 5 May (SC). **LD**: 10 Jun, JP (KC); 29 May, L Spfld (HDB).

Snowy Egret
EA: **28 Mar**, Frank Holten SP (St. Clair Co) (KM); 22 Apr (ad.), L Spfld (HDB); 26 Apr (2), LCal (WM). **MC**: 15, Eagle P Marsh (St. Clair Co), 20 May (KM, IOS); 15, Jackson Co, 28 May (MR, JS); 3, Boone Co, 16 May (AB). **LD**: 22 May (ad.), L Spfld (HDB); 16 May (3), Boone Co (AB); 13 May, Carl.C (DK).

Little Blue Heron
EA: 28 Mar, Frank Holten SP (St. Clair Co) (KM); 8 Apr (ad.), Homer (Champaign Co) (JOS); 19 Apr (ad.), Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery (Mason Co) (R&SBj); 21 Apr, Wolf L (LCal) (CM); 27 Apr, Boone Co (AB); 1 May (ad.), JP (SF, SC). **MC**: 8, Oakwood Btms (Jackson Co), 13 Apr (KM); 3 (ad.), LCal, 26 Apr (WM). **LD**: 19 May (2), Carl.C (DK); 12 May, Boone Co (AB).

Cattle Egret
EA: 27 Mar (3), St. Clair Co (KM); 9 Apr (ad.), Sang.L (HDB); 23 Apr, JP (SF, SC). **MC**: 105, St. Clair Co, 30 May (KM); 2, L Spfld, 12 Apr (HDB). **LD**: 27 May, Carl.F (DK); 18 May, L Spfld (HDB); 12 May, JP (PC).

Green Heron
EA: 13 Apr, JP (PC, KC); 13 Apr (4), Murphysboro (Jackson Co) (RSM); 13 Apr, Mermet L (FB); 20 Apr, Sang.L (HDB). **MC**: 7, JP, 11 May & 15 May (PC); 7, LCal, 5 May (WM); 6, Carl.C, 12 May (DK); 4, Sgmn Co, 5 May & 21-22 May (HDB); 4, Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery (Mason Co), 11 May (R&SBj). **LD**: 15 May (6 migrants), JP (PC).

Black-crowned Night-Heron
EA: 27 Mar, HL (KM); 30 Mar (2 ad.), JP (KC, PC); 20 Apr (2), Sang.L (HDB). **MC**: 706 (in evening dispersal from roost), LCal, 5 May (WM); 44, JP, 18 Apr (PC, KC); 20, Evanston, 7 May (EW); 8, Madison Co, 11 May (KM). **LD**: 23 May (3 — the highest count reported from c IL), L Spfld (HDB). Modest numbers outside ne IL.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
EA: 5 May (ad.), Beaubien Wds FP, LCal (WM); 5 May, Mermet L (FB). **LD**: 18 May, St. Clair Co (KM). Singles only, and evidently absent from expected sites.

Black Vulture
EA: 3 Mar (2), Massac Co (KM). **MC**: 20, Johnson Co, 21 Apr (KM). **Other** (undocumented): 11 Apr, **Richland Co** — apparently a first-county record. See Review Pending.

Turkey Vulture
EA: 17 Feb, St. Clair Co (KM); 19 Feb, Sgmn Co (HDB); 1 Mar, Riverwoods (Lake Co) (EW). **MC**: 74, Sgmn Co, 13 Mar (HDB); 70, Heron Pond (Johnson Co), 5 Apr (KM); 50, Union Co, 1 Apr (KM); 29, Clear L (Mason Co), 3 May (R&SBj). **LD**: 16 May (ad.), JP (PC, KC).

American White Pelicans. Des Plaines River, Channahon. Will County. 28 April 2001. Unprecedented numbers of American White Pelicans were present in Will County during April 2001. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Greater White-fronted Goose
EA: **17 Jan**, Sgmn Co (HDB)— **record early date for reported migrants**; 12 Feb (1100), Pulaski Co (KM); 3 Mar, Rosehill Cemetery North (Chi) (JEL:ph.); 3 Mar (55), Fermi (UG). **MC**: **1700**, LShel (Moultrie Co), 3 Mar (RC); **1555**, Victoria (Knox Co), 14 Mar (MB); 965, Sgmn Co, 3 Mar (HDB); 825+ (including 750 near Durand), Winnebago Co, 11 Mar (DTW); 64, Fermi, 7 Mar (JC). **LD**: 5 May, Pulaski Co (*JSn); 22 Apr, Sang.L (HDB); 17 Apr (2), Fermi (DTW). **Other**: Apparent **hybrid** (Blue Goose x Greater White-fronted Goose?): 6 Mar, Sgmn Co (HDB).

Snow Goose
EA: 30 Jan, Sgmn Co (HDB); 24 Feb, Evergreen L (McLean Co) (RC); 3 Mar (2, blue morph), Fermi (UG). **MC**: 6700, Sgmn Co, 3 Mar (HDB); 5000, Carl.C, 10 Mar (DK); 2500, Pesotum (Champaign Co), 25 Feb (RC); 1800, Maquon & Rapatee (Knox Co), 12 Mar (MB); 700, Pomona, 3 Mar (KM). **LD**: 12-27 May (2 — injured?), Carl.C (DK, KM); 24 May (blue morph), Buckhart (Sgmn Co) (HDB); 5 May (6), Fulton Co (*B&GP) — singles documented at five additional sites on 5 May in c and s IL (*m.ob.); 24 Mar, McKee Marsh (Du Page Co) (UG).

Rosss Goose
EA: 12 Feb, Sgmn Co (HDB); 25 Feb (2), Pesotum (Champaign Co) (RC); 2 Mar (2), LShel (RC); 11 Mar, McKee Marsh (Du Page Co) (UG); 11 Mar (2), Fermi (AS); 26 Mar, Silver Springs SP (Kendall Co) (DJS). **MC**: 15, Evergreen L (McLean Co), 24 Feb (RC); 8, s Clinton Co, 6 Mar (KM); 6 (ad.), L Spfld, 2 Apr (HDB); 3, Fermi, 11 Mar (MBC). **LD**: 13 Apr (2 ad.), Sang.L (HDB); 22 Mar (4), Dixon Mounds (Fulton Co) (RC); 9 Mar (3), 18 Btms (Franklin Co) (LS).

Canada Goose
EA: 30 Jan (influx), Urbana (RC); 8 Feb (143 migrants, including 2 Richardsons Geese), JP (BH, PC); 19 Feb (150 migrating), Spoon L (Knox Co) (MB). **MC**: 2300, Sgmn Co, 3 Mar (HDB); 2200, Kendall Co, 4 Mar (DFS); 993, JP, 20 Feb (KC); 680, HL, 5 Mar (KM). **LD**: 9 May (4, small race), Sang.L (HDB); 19 Mar (133 migrants), JP (PC); 10 Mar (decrease), Sgmn Co (HDB); 2 Mar (394), Chau (R&SBj). See previous winter season report for larger concentrations of migrants.

Mute Swan
EA: 8 Feb (5), JP (PC, KC). **MC**: **64**, Wolf L (LCal), 4 Mar (WM) — **record IL spring high count**; 4, Sgmn Co, 20 & 28 Mar (HDB). **LD**: 29 Mar, JP (PJP et al.). **Note**: The migrant status of Mute Swans appears to be under-represented or dismissed in most seasonal reports for IL, but banding results indicate at least short-range interstate movement and site fidelity (see, e.g., Bohlens (1989) *Birds of Illinois*). We encourage field observers to flag evident migration limits, particularly in the n tier of the state (and especially along L Michigan?), where data may indicate annual migration cycles distinct from local movements.

Tundra Swan
EA: 21 Feb, Sgmn Co (HDB); 3 Mar (3), CypCrk (KM); 10 Mar (3), Wadsworth Wetlands Project (Lake Co) (AS); 11 Mar (3), Des Plaines R Wetlands Demonstration Project (Lake Co) (SH); 11 Mar (11), Garden Prairie (Boone Co) (DTW); 11 Mar, Fermi (AS). **MC**: **72**, Harrison (Winnebago Co), 18 Mar (DTW); **50**, Fermi, 5 Mar (UG). **LD**: 31 Mar (3), Gages L (Lake Co) (SH); 18 Mar (11), Fermi (UG); 7 Mar (3), CypCrk (KM); 6 Mar (3), Sang.L (HDB).

Wood Duck
EA: 19 Feb (male), JP (BH, PC); 19 Feb, Sgmn Co (HDB). **MC**: 120, Hennepin L, 25 May (DFS); 82, Chau, 5 Apr (R&SBj); 59, Road on Levee (Monroe Co), 1 Mar (JPZ). **LD**: 16 May (male), Wilmette (Cook Co) (JE, EW).

Gadwall
EA: 12 Feb (pr), JP (SC); 16 Feb, Sgmn Co (HDB); 22 Feb (75), s Clinton Co (KM); 25 Feb, Arcola (Douglas Co) (RC); 10 Mar (4), Shab.L (DJS). **MC**: **1500**, Grassy L (Union Co), 29 Mar (KM); 400, Carl.F, 24 Mar (DK); 283, I & M Canal (Grundy Co), 1 Apr (DJS); 130, Sgmn Co, 2 Apr (HDB); 107, Chau, 19 Apr (R&SBj). **LD**: into Jun, Sang.L (HDB); 1 Jun, Woodford Co (MF); 27 May (8), Carl.F (DK).

American Wigeon
EA: 12 Feb, Sgmn Co (HDB); 19 Feb (5), Starved Rock SP (La Salle Co) (DJS); 22 Feb (155), s Clinton Co (KM). **MC**: 172, Pulaski Co, 4 Apr (KM); 100, Carl.F, 31 Mar (DK); 77, Sgmn Co, 8 Apr (HDB); 66, I & M Canal (Grundy Co), 1 Apr (DJS). **LD**: 29 May (pr), Heyworth (McLean Co) (MR, JS); 26-27 May (male), Sang.L (HDB); 19-21 May (2), Carl.F (KM, DK); 13 Apr (male), JP (PC).

American Black Duck
EA: 25 Feb, Arcola (Douglas Co) (RC); 11 Mar (7), Pecatonica (Winnebago Co) (DTW). **MC**: 13, Sgmn Co, 5 Mar (HDB); 4, Pratts Wayne Wds FP (Du Page Co), 1 Apr (UG); 3, Union Co, 13 Mar (KM). **LD**: 23 May (2), Hennepin L (DFS); 5 May, DeWitt Co (LMI); 9 Apr (3), Sang.L (HDB); 8 Apr (2), CypCrk (KM). **Other**: male paired with female Mallard all spring, Wilmette (Cook Co) (fide EW)

Mallard
EA: 8 Feb (57), JP (PC et al.). **MC**: 20,000, Carl.F, 17 Mar (DK); 12,000, s of Maquon (Knox Co), 13 Mar (MB); 10,000, LShel, 3 Mar (RC); 2000, s Clinton Co, 6 Mar (KM); 550, Sgmn Co, 15 Mar (HDB). **LD**: 2 Apr (decrease), Sgmn Co (HDB).

Blue-winged Teal
EA: 4 Mar (5), Mermet L (FB); 5 Mar (2 males), Sang.L (HDB); 18 Mar, Clin.L (RC); 18 Mar (3 males), Indian Ridge Marsh North, LCal (WM); 23 Mar, Pillsbury Plant, Kautz Road (Kane Co) (DJS). **MC**: 300, Carl.F, 21 Apr (DK); 200, Victoria (Knox Co), 9 Apr (MB); 170, Sgmn Co, 15 Apr (HDB); 95, Union Co, 5 Apr (KM); 22, JP, 7 Apr (PC, SC). **LD**: 10 Jun (male), JP (KC); 27 May (3), Carl.F (DK); 27 May (male), Sang.L (HDB). See next for hybrid.

Cinnamon Teal
One report: 14 Apr (male), MidFk (RC, HP). **Hybrid Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal**: 12-15 Apr (male), Heyworth (McLean Co) (MR, RF)

Northern Shoveler
EA: 11 Feb, Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co) (UG); 22 Feb (6), s Clinton Co (KM); 24 Feb, Evergreen L (McLean Co) and Clin.L (RC); 9 Mar (male), JP (KC); 10 Mar (4), Shab.L (DJS). **MC**: **6800**, Carl.F, 25 Mar (DK) — **record IL high count** excluding aerial surveys; 2000, Chau, 22 Mar (RC); 675, HL, 27 Mar (KM); 620, CrabOr., 4 Apr (KM); 14, Des Plaines R Wetlands Demonstration Project (Lake Co) (SH). **LD**: 27-31 May (male), Sang.L (HDB); 27 May, Carl.C (DK); 16 May (3), GrtLakes (JE, EW).

Northern Pintail
EA: 29 Jan, Sgmn Co (HDB); 10 Feb (pr), Hidden L FP (Du Page Co) (UG); 12 Feb (120), Pulaski Co (KM); 24 Feb, Clin.L (RC); 10 Mar (4), Savanna Army Depot (Jo Daviess Co) (AA); 10 Mar (40), Shab.L (DJS). **MC**: **5000**, Carl.C, 10 Mar (DK) and **5000**, IL R near Spring Valley (Bureau Co), 11 Mar (JH) — **record**

spring high counts excluding aerial survey data: 1500, LShel, 3 Mar (RC); 475, Pulaski Co, 7 Mar (KM); 350, Sgmn Co, 2 Mar (HDB). **LD**: 19 Apr - 23 May (male), Hennepin L (DFS), 21 Apr (2), Carl.C (DK), 13 Apr (pr), Sang.L (HDB).

Green-winged Teal
EA: 12 Feb, Sgmn Co (HDB); 19 Feb (2), Starved Rock SP (La Salle Co) (DJS); 22 Feb (45), s Clinton Co (KM). **MC**: 815, Carl.F, 17 Mar (DK); 350, CypCrk, 4 Apr (KM); 150, Victoria (Knox Co), 9 Apr (MB); 75, I & M Canal (La Salle Co), 8 Apr (DJS). **LD**: 6 Jun (pr), JP (PC); 30 May (2), Pratts Wayne Wds FP (Du Page Co) (DJS); 22 May (male), Sang.L (HDB); 6 May, Carl.F (DK).

Canvasback
EA: **5 Jan**, Sgmn Co (HDB) — **earliest migrant date on record**, 25 Feb, Arcola (Douglas Co) (RC), 8 Mar (15), L Holiday (La Salle Co) (DJS). **MC**: **50,000**, Hancock Co, 24 Feb (KM, IOS) — **record spring high count; record high count overall** excluding aerial surveys: 1000, Emiquon NWR (Fulton Co), 22 Mar (RC); 200, Carl.C, 11 Mar (DK); 44, Palos, 19 Mar (WS). **LD**: 5 May (female), Mahomet (Champaign Co) (GL, RC); 5 May, Marshall Co (*MB & EY); 13 Apr, Carl.B (DK).

Redhead
EA: **7 Jan**, Sgmn Co (HDB) — **record early migrant date by five days**, 25 Feb, Arcola (Douglas Co) (RC), 3 Mar (4), Pulaski Co (KM); 11 Mar (3), Fermi (UG). **MC**: 135, Sgmn Co, 10 Mar (HDB); 70, s Clinton Co, 6 Mar (KM); 6, Eggers Wds FP, LCal, 30 Mar (CM). **LD**: into Jun (pr), Sang.L (HDB); 25-29 May, Illowa Farm, Somonauk (De Kalb Co) (DJS); 27 Mar (6), HL (KM).

Ring-necked Duck
EA: 12 Feb, Sgmn Co (HDB); 22 Feb (90), OFallon Waste Water Treatment Plant (St. Clair Co) (KM), 24 Feb, Evergreen L (McLean Co) (RC); 10 Mar (7), Shab.L (DJS). **MC**: **5000**, Emiquon NWR (Fulton Co), 22 Mar (RC) — **record spring high count** excluding aerial surveys; 2042, Carl.F, 17 Mar (DK); 2000, LShel, 3 Mar (RC); 1508, HL, 9 Mar (KM); 290, I & M Canal (Grundy Co), 1 Apr (DJS). **LD**: 15 May (male), Bunn P, Spfld (HDB); 8 May (male), HL (DFS); 22 Apr (2), Eggers Wds FP, LCal (CM); 22 Apr, Palos West, Palos (UG).

Greater Scaup
EA: 8 Feb (101), JP (PC, KC); 25 Feb, Arcola (Douglas Co) (RC). **MC**: 180, Evanston, 6 Apr (EW); 30, Fermi, 17 Mar (JC); 6, Sgmn Co, 2 Apr (HDB). **LD**: 5 May (pr), Cook Co (*WS); 12 Apr (19), JP (PC, KC); 7 Apr, L Spfld (HDB); 7 Apr (female), Moraine View SP (McLean Co) (MR, RF); 19 Mar, Rend L (LS) — the only report from s IL. Poor numbers.

Lesser Scaup
EA: 8 Feb (male), JP (PC, BH); 12 Feb, Sgmn Co (HDB). **MC**: **10,000**, Anderson L (Fulton Co), 22 Mar (RC) — **ties for record spring high count** excluding aerial surveys: **8200**, Carl.C, 25 Mar (DK); 4000, LShel, 3 Mar (RC). **LD**: 23 May (male), Sang.L (HDB); 20 May (2), HL (KM, IOS); 19 Apr (3), JP (KC, PC).

Surf Scoter
EA: 24 Feb (2), Clin.L (RC) — the only report.

White-winged Scoter
EA: 22 Mar (male), Clin.L (RC) — the only report.

Black Scoter
EA: 2-6 Apr (imm. male), JP (PC et al.); 4 Apr (pr), Sgmn Co (HDB). No other reports.

Long-tailed Duck
EA: 26 Feb, HL (KM). **LD**: 5 May, Calhoun Co (*WSd). No other reports.

Bufflehead
EA: 17 Feb (5), JP (KC); 18 Feb, Sgmn Co (HDB); 22 Feb (4), s Clinton Co (KM). **MC**: 60, Jasper Co, 24 Mar (KM, IOS); 40, Carl.C, 31 Mar (DK); 30, Sgmn Co, 11 Mar (HDB); 25+, Savanna Army Depot (Jo Daviess Co), 10 Mar (AA). **LD**: 5 May (female), Shab.L (DJS); 5 May (2 females), Evanston (EW, TB); 4 May (female), L Spfld (HDB), 21 Apr, Grassy L (Union Co) (KM); 21 Apr, Carl.C (DK). Poor numbers.

Common Goldeneye
EA: 25 Jan (125+), JP (PC); 25 Feb (6), near Sheridan (La Salle Co) (DJS). **MC**: 138+, JP, 13 Feb (PC, BH); 110, Sgmn Co, 1 Mar (HDB); 16, HL, 5 Mar (KM). **LD**: 3 May (pr), Wadsworth Wetlands Project (Lake Co) (RP); 8 Apr (2 females), Evanston (EW); 28 Mar (female), L Spfld (HDB); 7 Mar (3), HL (KM).

Hooded Merganser
EA: 10 Mar (2), Shab.L (DJS); 11 Mar (4), Durand (Winnebago Co) (DTW); 11 Mar (4), Fermi (UG); 11 Mar (male), JP (PC). **MC**: 37, Chau, 8 Mar (R&SBJ); 25, Sgmn Co, 7 Mar (HDB); 12, CypCrk, 3 Mar (KM); 12, Carl.C, 17 Mar (DK); 12, Shab.L, 30 Mar (DJS). **LD**: 25 May (female), Hennepin L (DFS); 25 May (female post-breeding wanderer?), Evanston (EW); 23 May (female), Rochester P near Spfld (HDB); 5 May, Carl.C (DK).

Common Merganser
EA: 21 Jan (41), JP (PC, BH). **MC**: 2282, Chau, 2 Mar (R&SBJ); 1000, Heidecke L (Grundy Co), 6 Mar (JC); 630, Palos, 19 Mar (WS); 365, HL, 26 Feb (KM). **LD**: 5 May, Jasper Co (*JW et al.); 5 May, Depue L (Bureau Co) (*DFS); 17 Apr (female), JP (KC); 7 Apr (female), L Spfld (HDB).

Red-breasted Merganser
EA: **9 Jan**, Sgmn Co (HDB) — **record early IL arrival by 13 days** (see Remarks), **25 Jan** (38+), JP (PC), 7 Feb (5), Crab Or (KM). **MC**: **10,000**, Carl C, 25 Mar (DK) — **ties record IL high count** from 1977, with next highest count at 5200 birds (27 Mar 1982); **1950**, Highland P (Lake Co), 15 Apr (DRD), 740, LCal, 26 Mar (DFS), 200, Chau, 22 Mar (RC). **LD**: **28 May** (2 females), Shab.L (DJS); 28 Apr, Mermet L (KM, DK, VL); 17 Apr (male), L Spfld (HDB). **Remarks**: Spring arrival (and fall departure) dates are obscured by the sizable wintering population, and published spring arrival dates are limited. Nonetheless, this season's 9 Jan date seems notably early in the season.

Ruddy Duck
EA: **16 Jan**, Sgmn Co (HDB) — second earliest migrant arrival for IL; 22 Feb (6), OFallon Waste Water Treatment Plant (St. Clair Co) (KM); 28 Feb (male), JP (DC). **MC**: **5000**, HL, 27 Mar (KM); 1760, Clear L (Mason Co), 22 Mar (R&SBJ); 1500, Carl C, 11 Mar (DK); 1045, Chau, 30 Mar (R&SBJ). **LD**: 28 May (3), Pratts Wayne Wds FP (Du Page Co) (UG); 18 May (2 males), Sang.L (HDB); 24 Apr (25), OFallon Waste Water Treatment Plant (St. Clair Co) (KM).

Osprey
EA: 5 Apr, Mermet L (KM); 7 Apr, JP (PC, SC); 11 Apr, Sang.L (HDB). **MC**: 3, Bergman Slough, Palos, 14 Apr-summer (DRD, WS). **LD**: 29 May, Heyworth (McLean Co) (MR, JS); 21 May, L Spfld (HDB); 19 May, Madison Co (KM, IOS); 27 Apr, Argonne National Laboratory (se Du Page Co) (UG).

Mississippi Kite
EA: 25 Apr (2), Atwood Ridge (Union Co) (KM); 27 Apr, Mermet L (FB).

Bald Eagle
EA: 11 Mar (8), Rockford & Durand (Winnebago Co) (DTW); 11 Mar (ad.), Fermi (UG). **MC**: **175** (78 ad., 97 imm.), Chau, 2 Mar (R&SBJ) — near-record high count for site; 151, Savanna Army Depot (Jo Daviess Co) to Fulton (Whiteside Co), 10 Mar (AA). **LD**: 29 May (2), McGinnis Slough, Palos (WS); 21 May (2 ad.), Rock Cut SP (Winnebago Co) (DTW); 22 May (ad.), Sang.L (HDB); 17 Apr (2 ad.), Rend L (not known nesting location) (KM); 4 Apr (2), Johnson Co (KM).

Northern Harrier
EA: 20 Feb, Sgmn Co (HDB); 2 Mar (3), McHenry & Cook Cos (AA); 2 Mar (male), JP (SC). **MC**: 8, Carl.C, 18 Mar (DK); 5, Kankakee Co, 8 Apr (DFS); 3, Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co), 28 Mar (UG); 3, Evanston, 7 Apr (EW). **LD**: 29 May, McGinnis Slough, Palos (WS); 20 May, Carl.F (DK, IOS); 19 May (nesting?), Sgmn Co (HDB); 5 May, Clinton Co (KM).

Sharp-shinned Hawk
EA: 3 Mar, Perry Co (KM); 10 Mar, Carl.C (DK); 16 Mar, Sgmn Co (HDB); 28 Mar, Frankfort (Will Co) (AA); 6 Apr (ad. male), JP (PC, BH). **MC**: 3, Sgmn Co, 22 Mar (HDB). **LD**: 23 May, Linc.P (GW); 24 Apr, OFallon Waste Water Treatment Plant (St. Clair Co) (KM); 31 Mar, Sgmn Co (HDB).

Coopers Hawk
EA: 28 Mar, JP (PC, KC). **MC**: 4, Carl.C, 10-11 Mar (DK); 3, Sgmn Co, 3 & 17 Mar (HDB). **LD**: 18 May, Madison Co (KM); 8 Apr (2 females), JP (PC, BH).

Red-shouldered Hawk
EA: 20 Feb (3), Lawrence Co (LH); 22 Feb, s Clinton Co (KM); 1 Mar (ad.), n of New City (Sgmn Co) (HDB); 7 Mar, Urbana (RC). **MC**: 5, Mermet L, 7 Mar (KM); 2 (ad.), Buckhart (Sgmn Co), 3 Mar (HDB). **LD**: 16 May (imm.), Sang.L (HDB).

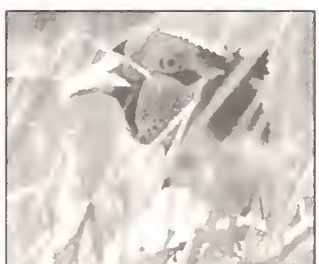
Broad-winged Hawk
EA: 7 Apr, Maple Grove FP (Du Page Co) (MBC); 7 Apr, Union Co (KM); 8 Apr, s Kankakee Co (DFS). **MC**: 7, Sgmn Co, 18 Apr (HDB); 2, Atwood Ridge (Union Co), 10 Apr (KM). **LD**: 1 Jun, Chinquapin Bluffs Psv (Woodford Co) (MF); 29 May (2 imm.), Wash.P (HDB); 12 May, Carl.C (DK). No flights reported this spring.

Red-tailed Hawk
EA: 18 Mar (imm.), JP (JSR, KC). **MC**: 37, Palos, 14 Mar (WS); 34, Sgmn Co, 3 Mar (HDB); 30, Carl.C, 18 Mar (DK); 17, Putnam Co, 19 Apr (DFS); 15, Monroe Co, 28 Mar (KM). **LD**: 24 May (ad.Kriders), JP (PC); 25 Apr (decreased numbers), Sgmn Co (HDB). **Others**: **Melanistic**: 7 Mar, Clin.L (RC). **Partial albino**: 15 May, Road on Levee (Monroe Co) (JPZ). **Rufous morph**: 13 Mar, se of Spfld (HDB); 28 Mar, Rend L (LS). **Dark or Rufous morph**: 14 Apr (ad.), LCal (WM). **Western dark morph**: 12 Mar (2 ad.), Road on Levee (Monroe Co) (JPZ). **Harlans**: 1 Mar (ad.), Road on Levee (Monroe Co) (JPZ); 3 Mar, Union Co (KM); 24 Mar, Pr.Rdg (KM, IOS), 24 Mar, Clinton Co (KM); 13 Apr (ad. band-tailed morph), Moraine View SP (McLean Co) (MR, RF). **Kriders'**: 1 Mar (imm.), Road on Levee (Monroe Co) (JPZ); 19 & 21 Mar (imm.), e of Spfld (HDB); 26 Mar, Rend L (LS); 29 Mar, Jackson Co (KM); 1 Apr, Johnson Co (KM); 7 Apr (ad.), nc De Witt Co (MR, RF); 24 May (ad.), JP (PC).

Rough-legged Hawk
EA: 1 Mar, near Sang.L (HDB). **LD**: **9 May**, IBSP (RP); 5 May, Will Co (*JK); 24 Mar (2), Carl.C (DK); 24 Mar, Pr.Rdg (KM, IOS).

Golden Eagle
EA: 3 Mar (imm.), UCCA (KM); 14 Mar (ad.), e Sangamon R valley (Sgmn Co) (HDB). **LD**: 1 Apr (ad.), Union Co (KM); 28 Mar (imm.), Buckhart (Sgmn Co) (HDB).

American Kestrel
EA: 10 Mar (female), JP (BH). **MC**: 16, Sgmn Co, 3 Mar (HDB); 8, Carl.C, 25 Mar (DK); 5, Union Co, 7 Mar (KM). Disturbingly few reports.



Ring-necked Pheasant, Sangamon County, 26 April 2001. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Merlin
EA: 14 Mar, Lindsay Bridge, L Spfld (HDB); 17 Mar, Mermet L (FB); 24 Mar, Greenbelt FP (Lake Co) (DRD). **LD**: 30 Apr, Montrose (GW); 26 Apr, Sang.L (HDB); 22 Apr, Franklin Co (FB). Three additional reports of singles.

Peregrine Falcon
EA: 24 Feb (female), Evanston (EW); 3 Apr, Monroe Co (KM); 19 Apr (*tundrius*), Carl.F (DK); 1 May, Moraine View SP (McLean Co) (MR, KK). **LD**: 24 May, Ridgway tract, Pr.Rdg (LH); 19 May (*tundrius*), Carl.F (DK); 13 May (ad.), L Spfld (HDB); 12 May (*tundrius*), JP (PC). Two additional reports of migratory subspecies *tundrius*, 22 Apr & 6 May, Carl.F (DK), plus seven additional singles of unspecified subspecies.

Ring-necked Pheasant
MC: 16, Sgmn Co, 3 Mar (HDB).

Greater Prairie-Chicken
MC: 21 (including 3 females), near Prairie Ridge State Natural Area (Marion Co), 21 Apr (MAH); 5, Pr.Rdg, 26 Apr (KM); 5 (males), Effingham Co, 4 May (MAH).

Wild Turkey
MC: 31, Mermet L, 7 Mar (KM); 24, Rend L, 19 Mar (LS); 21, Sgmn Co, 14 Mar (HDB); 15, n of Cardondale (Jackson Co), 27 Mar (RSM). **Others**: 10 Mar & 17

Mar, Carl.C (DK); 10 Mar, Savanna Army Depot (Jo Daviess Co) (AA).

Northern Bobwhite
MC: 17, Sgmn Co, 29 Mar (HDB); 10, Hennepin L, 19 Apr (DFS); 4, Bond Co, 21 May (KM). Low numbers in s IL (KM, DK).

Yellow Rail **EA**: 14 Apr, Clin.L (RC) — the only report.

King Rail **EA**: 13 Apr, CypCrk (FB). **LD**: 28 Apr - 3 May (breeding?), Johnson Co (KM). No other reports.

Virginia Rail
EA: 29 Mar (2), Oakwood Btms (Jackson Co) (KM); 22 Apr, Arcola (Douglas Co) (RC). **MC**: 4, LCal, 5 May (WM, TVB). **LD**: 5 May, Mahomet (Champaign Co) (RC, GL); 22 Apr (2), Johnson Co (KM). **Others** (breeding?): 23 May, n of Wataga (Knox Co) (MB).

Sora
EA: 4 Apr, Clin.L (RC); 13 Apr, Mermet L (KM); 26 Apr, JP (PC, BH). **MC**: 15, Old Ben 25 Mine Subsidence (Franklin Co), 21 Apr (LS); 5, Sgmn Co, 2 May (HDB); 3, Massac Co, 10 Apr (FB). **LD**: 20 May, Madison Co (KM, IOS); 13 May, Sang.L (HDB). A very poor season; **only one report from n IL**!

Common Moorhen
EA: 26 Apr, LCal (WM). **LD**: 28 Apr, Hegewisch Marsh, LCal (WM). **Others**(summering?): 3 Jun, McHenry Dam (McHenry Co) (DRD). Only two sightings at LCal, where this species is expected. No other reports.

American Coot
EA: 19 Feb, JP (PC); 25 Feb, Sgmn Co (HDB); 25 Feb, Arcola (Douglas Co) (RC); 3 Mar, Hidden L FP (Du Page Co) (UG). **MC**: 3350, HL, 27 Mar (KM); 2189, Chau, 12 Apr (R&SBj); 1500, Carl.C, 25 Mar (DK); 1050, LCal, 13 Apr (DFS). **LD**: 2 Jun, JP (KC); 30 May (2), L Spfld (HDB, KM); 29 May, Heyworth (McLean Co) (MR, JS); 6 May (2), Carl.C (DK).

Sandhill Crane
EA: **10-11 Feb** (23), Mount Erie (Wayne Co) (LH); 21 Feb, Lawrence Co (LH); 23 Feb, Urbana (RC); 2 Mar (5), JP (SC); 11 Mar (9), Winnebago Co (DTW). **MC**: **5450** (in less than two hours), Palos, 18 Mar (WS) — **record spring high count** and **record single-party high count for IL**; 300, Fermi, 18 Mar (UG); 150, Crystal L (McHenry Co), 18 Mar (DF); 52, Jasper Co, 3 Mar (LH); 46, Lawrence Co, 26 Feb (LH). **LD**: 15 Apr, Victoria (Knox Co) (MB); 1 Apr (2), three miles e of Bushnell (McDonough Co) (LLH); 3 Mar (52), Jasper Co, 3 Mar (LH).

Black-bellied Plover
EA: **21 Apr** (2), Carl.C (DK); **21 Apr** (3), CypCrk (FB) — **arrivals are second earliest on record**; 5 May, Heyworth (McLean Co) (TEB, MF); 17 May (5), Rockford (DTW). **MC**: 45, Carl.F, 19 May (DK, IOS); 6, Hennepin L, 25 May (DFS). **LD**: 25 May (6), Hennepin L (DFS); 21 May (3), Carl.F (KM).

American Golden-Plover
EA: 19 Mar (27), Massac Co (FB); 24 Mar (6), Pr.Rdg (KM); 31 Mar (50), LShel (RC). **MC**: 3000, Homer (Champaign Co), 13 Apr (JOS); 2000, Jamesburg (Vermilion Co), 8 Apr (RC); 1200, Crittendon Township (Champaign Co), 7 Apr (RC); 800, Carl.C, 14 Apr (DK). **LD**: 19 May, Carl.F (KR); 17 May, Rockford (DTW).

Semipalmated Plover
EA: 17 Apr, Rend L (Jefferson Co) (KM); 23 Apr, Sang.L (HDB); 28 Apr (25), I & M Canal (La Salle Co) (DJS). **MC**: **750**, Carl.F, 10 May (CPA); **600**, same site, 17 May (KR); **600**, same site, 19 May (DK, IOS); **400**, same site, 18 May (RC); **322**, Split Rock L (La Salle Co), 11 May (JH); 65, Rockford, 16 May (DTW); 52, Johnson Co, 3 May (KM); 17, Sgmn Co, 13 May (HDB). **LD**: 11 Jun, GrtLakes (EW, WS, m.ob.); 3 Jun, Del Monte ponds, Mendota (La Salle Co) (JH); 1 Jun (25), Carl.F (CPA); 29 May, L Spfld (HDB). **Unprecedented numbers!** Previous maxima include 450 at Fishhk 17 May 1997; 275 at Clear L (Mason Co) 30 May 1988; otherwise, high counts do not exceed 210 birds.

SNOWY PLOVER
EA: 28 Apr - 1 May, Grassy Slough Psv, Belknap (Johnson Co) (*DK-ph,VL,KM). Two previously accepted Illinois records, one (7 May 1986) from Sangamon Co and one (11 May 1987) from Fulton Co, plus one undocumented sight record from Jackson Co (19 May 1993). See seasonal highlights and photo.

Piping Plover
LD: 18 May, Carl.F (RC) — the only report.

Killdeer
EA: 10 Feb (3), Santa Fe Btms (Clinton Co) (DK); 11 Feb, Urbana (RC); 3 Mar (2), Rockford (DTW); 3 Mar, Swallow Cliffs FP, Palos (CA). **MC**: **400**, LShel, 3 Mar (RC) — **record spring high count** by 100 individuals; 90, Sgmn Co, 5 Mar (HDB); 80, Carl.C, 24 Mar, 21 Apr & 19 May (DK et al.); 53, Kankakee Co, 17 Mar (DFS). **LD**: 16 May (2), JP (PC).

Black-necked Stilt
EA: **16 Apr**, Belknap, Johnson Co (KM, DK, FB) — second earliest IL arrival; 2 May, Carl.F (MD). **MC/LD**: 3, Carl.C, 19 May (DK, IOS).

American Avocet
EA: 17 Apr (14), Rend L (Jefferson Co) (KM); 21 Apr, IBSP (AS); 21 Apr (6), GrtLakes (EW:ph.). **MC**: 14, Rend L (Jefferson Co), as above; 6, GrtLakes, as above.

Greater Yellowlegs
EA: 20 Mar, Des Plaines R Wetlands Demonstration Project (Lake Co) (SH); 22 Mar, Starved Rock SP (La Salle Co) (JH); 24 Mar, Carl.F (DK, KM); 28 Mar, Sang.L (HDB). **MC**: 75, Carl.F, 15 Apr (DK); 50, Split Rock L (La Salle Co), 24 Apr (JH); 37, MidFk, 8 Apr (RC). **LD**: 27 May, Carl.F (DK); 25 May, Del Monte ponds, Mendota (La Salle Co) (JH); 20 May, LCal (WM); 12 May (2), McDonough Co (LLH).

Lesser Yellowlegs
EA: 3 Mar, LShel (RC); 11 Mar (31), CypCrk (FB); 17 Mar (4), Carl.F (DK); 8 Apr (100), I & M Canal (La Salle Co) (DJS). **MC**: **1000**, Carl.F, 13-14 Apr (DK); **1000**, Carl.F, 25 Apr (KM); **550**, Split Rock L (La Salle Co), 24 Apr (JH); 100, Fishhk, 28 Apr (RC). **LD**: 1 Jun, Del Monte ponds, Mendota (La Salle Co) (JH); 31 May, Sang.L (HDB); 19 May (2), Carl.C (DK, IOS).

Solitary Sandpiper
EA: 5 Apr, Grassy L (Union Co) (KM); 8 Apr, Carl.F (DK); 9 Apr, Sang.L (HDB); 14 Apr, Kendall Co (DJS); 22 Apr (3), M.Arh (UG). **MC**: **51**, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe (Cook Co), 2 May (EW) — record spring high count for n IL; 14, Carl.C, 5 May (DK); 7, McDonough Co, 5 May (LLH). **LD**: 14 May, Carl.F (KM); 13 May, L Spfld (HDB); 12 May, Fermi (UG); 12 May (2), Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe (Cook Co) (AA).

Willet
EA: 14 Apr, Starved Rock SP (La Salle Co) (JH); 17 Apr, Grant P (DFS); 28 Apr, LShel (RC); 5 May (2), Carl.C (DK, KM). **MC**: 7, s of Victoria (Knox Co), 29 Apr (MB); 4, Lake Co, 8-9 May (RP). **LD**: 24 May (2), Montrose (GW); 23 May (4), L Spfld (HDB).

Spotted Sandpiper
EA: 12 Apr, JP (BH, PC); 15 Apr, Carl.F (DK); 15 Apr, Mermet L (FB); 18 Apr, L Spfld (HDB). **MC**: 16, LCal, 5 May (WM); 16, Carl.C, 5 May (DK); 16, Victoria & L Storey (Knox Co), 16 May (MB). **LD**: 29 May, Heyworth (McLean Co) (MR, JS); 27 May, Carl.F (DK); 24 May, JP (PC).

Upland Sandpiper
EA: **25 Mar** (flock of 23), CypCrk (FB) — **record early IL arrival by eight days**; 14 Apr, Gilford (Champaign Co) (RC); 19 Apr, Sang.L (HDB); 28 Apr, Fermi (UG); 29 Apr (6), Pr.Rdg (LH); 3 May (2 on territory), Victoria (Knox Co) (MB). **MC**: 23, CypCrk, as above; 8, Pr.Rdg, 14 Apr (MAH). **LD**: 21 Apr, CypCrk (FB).

Hudsonian Godwit
EA: 24 Apr, Split Rock L (La Salle Co) (JH). **MC**: 3, Split Rock L (La Salle Co), 17 May (JH); 3, I & M Canal (La Salle Co), 18 May (DJS). **LD**: 27 May, Clin.L (RC); 19 May, Rockford (DTW); 14 May, Ridott (Stephenson Co) (DTW).

Marbled Godwit
All reports: **EA**: 16-17 Apr, Rend L (Jefferson Co) (DK, KM); 17 Apr, Belknap (Johnson Co) (FB); 21 Apr, Carl.C (DK). **MC**: 2, Rockford, 16 May (DTW). **LD**: 18 May, Del Monte ponds, Mendota (La Salle Co) (DJS, m.ob.); 11 May, Carl.F (JH); 6 May, Carl.F (DK, MD).

Ruddy Turnstone
EA: 11 May, Carl.F (JH); 12 May, JP (KC); 16 May (2), L Spfld (HDB); 18 May (4), Rockford (DTW). **MC**: **80**, Carl.F, 19 May (KR) — **unprecedented inland high count**, where previous maxima do not exceed 31 birds; 10, JP, 17 May (PC); 5, Chau, 17 May (R&SBj). **LD**: 15 Jun, GrtLakes (EW, m.ob.); 7 Jun (different from bird of 15 Jun), GrtLakes (EW); 1 Jun (5), Carl.F (CPA); 29 May, Clin.L (MR, JS).

Red Knot
EA: 19 May, Carl.F (DK, IOS); 23 May, Hennepin L (DFS). **MC/LD**: 28 May (2), Carl.F (DK, KR).

Sanderling
EA: 2 May (3), Carl.F (DK); 17 May, Chau (R&SBj); 18 May (5), Rockford (DTW); 20 May (3), JP (SC, KC); 22 May (winter plumage), L Storey (Knox Co) (MB). **MC**: 9, Carl.F, 21 May (KM); 8, Buckhart (Sgmn Co), 23 May (HDB); 7, Evanston, 15 May (EW, JE). **LD**: 11 Jun (4), GrtLakes (EW, WS, m.ob.); 27 May, L Spfld (HDB); 26 May, Carl.F (KR).

Semipalmated Sandpiper
EA: 25 Apr (2), Carl.F (KM); 28 Apr, Fishhk (RC); 1 May, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe (Cook Co) (EW). **MC**: **2500**, Carl.F, 27 May (DK) — **unpredecented spring numbers**, two and a half times the previous spring high count; **700**, same site, 28 May (DK, KR); **600**, same site, 21 May (KM, DK); **300**, same site, 18 May (RC); 133, Sgmn Co, 23 May (HDB); 95, Rockford, 22 May (DTW). **LD**: 11 Jun (8), GrtLakes (EW, WS, m.ob.); 1 Jun (200), Carl.F (CPA); 27 May, Clin.L (RC).

Western Sandpiper
EA: 5 May, Brown Co (*MW); 5 May (3), Jackson Co (*PB); 15 May, Sanganois State Wildlife Area (Mason Co) (LLH). The only reports.

Least Sandpiper
EA: 31 Mar (2), LShel (RC); 1 Apr, Pulaski Co (KM); 6 Apr, Sang.L (HDB); 13 Apr (2), I & M Canal (La Salle Co) (DJS). **MC**: **750**, Carl.F, 6 May (DK, MD) — **record spring high count** by 50 birds; **668**, Carl.C, 5 May (DK); **500**, Carl.F, 12 May (DK); 200+, Rockford, 22 May (DTW); 70, Sgmn Co, 7 May (HDB). **LD**: 28 May (4), Carl.F (DK, KR); 27 May, Clin.L (RC); 13 May (2), Hidden L FP (Du Page Co) (UG). **Other**(undocumented): **11 Mar**, Pulaski Co — **record early IL arrival by seven days** — previous early dates are 18 Mar 2000 (documented) and otherwise 25 Mar.

White-rumped Sandpiper
EA: 2 May, Sang.L (HDB); 5 May, Winnebago Co (*J&JA); 5 May, Jasper Co (*JW et al.). **MC**: **150**, Carl.F, 27 May (DK) — **record IL high count**; **100**, same site, 28 May (DK, KR) — **ties previous state high count**; **75**, same site, 17 May (DK, KR); **50**, same site, 19 May (DK, IOS); 16, L Storey (Knox Co), 24 May (MB); 9, Rockford, 17 May (DTW). **LD**: into Jun, Sgmn Co (HDB); 11 Jun (8), GrtLakes (EW, WS, m.ob.); 4 Jun (14), near New Athens (St. Clair Co) (*TD).

Bairds Sandpiper
EA: 5 May, Henry Co (*RN); 5 May, Brown Co (*MW); 21 Apr, Carl.F (DK). **MC**: 5, Carl.F, 11 May (JH); 4, Rockford, 17 May (DTW). **LD**: 17 May (4), Rockford (DTW); 13 May (3), Massac Co (FB).

Pectoral Sandpiper
EA: 11 Mar (15), Pulaski Co (FB); 17 Mar (36), Carl.F (DK); 19 Mar, Sang.L (HDB); 13 Apr (6), I & M Canal (La Salle Co) (DJS). **MC**: 1000, Pulaski Co, 5 Apr (KM); 800, Carl.F, 13-14 Apr (DK); 600, Split Rock L (La Salle Co), 24 Apr (JH); 500, Jamesburg (Vermilion Co), 8 Apr (RC). **LD**: 3 Jun, Del Monte ponds, Mendota (La Salle Co) (JH); 26 May, Carl.F (KR); 20 May, L Spfld (HDB).

Dunlin
EA: 10 Apr (2), Pulaski Co (KM); 13 Apr, Carl.F (DK); 17 Apr, Sang.L (HDB); 21 Apr (6), GrtLakes (EW); 28 Apr (3), I & M Canal (La Salle Co) (DJS). **MC**: **800**, Carl.F, 19 May (DK, IOS) — **twice the previous spring high count**; **300**, same site, 27 May (DK); 75, Clin.L, 27 May (RC); 24, Rockford, 22 May (DTW). **LD**: 11 Jun (3), GrtLakes (EW, WS, m.ob.); 3 Jun, Del Monte ponds, Mendota (La Salle Co) (JH); 1 Jun (25), Carl.F (CPA); 31 May (5), L Spfld (HDB).

CURLEW SANDPIPER
EA: 10 June through 13 June , Great Lakes Naval Training Center (Lake Co) (BE, CF-ph, m.ob.) See seasonal highlights and photo.

Stilt Sandpiper
EA: 10 Apr (4), Pulaski Co (KM) — **second earliest IL arrival**; 16 Apr (2), Carl.F (CPA); 30 Apr, Victoria (Knox Co) (MB); 5 May, Knox Co (*MW). **MC**: **40**, Carl.F, 21 May (KM) — **record spring high count**; 10, same site, 18 May (RC); 4, Sgmn Co, 21 & 23 May (HDB). **LD**: 26 May (4), Carl.F (KR); 26 May, Sang.L (HDB); 23 May, Victoria (Knox Co) (MB). No reports submitted from n IL.

Short-billed Dowitcher
EA: 5 May, Heyworth (McLean Co) (TEB, MF); 5 May (2), Carl.C (DK); 12 May, LCal (WM). **MC**: **129**, Carl.F, 6 May (DK, MD) — **single-site high count for spring**; 45, Carl.C, 12 May (DK); 35, Hennepin L, 23 May (DFS); 13, Rockford, 17 May (DTW). **LD**: 27 May, Clin.L (RC); 23 May (35), Hennepin L (DFS); 21 May, Carl.F (KM). **Others** (undocumented): **17 Apr** (11), Pulaski Co. This species merits documentation prior to the last few days of April.

Long-billed Dowitcher
EA: 31 Mar (5), Carl.F (DK); 13 Apr (7), Belknap (Johnson Co) (FB); 17 Apr, Rend L (Jefferson Co) (KM); 14 Apr (4), MidFk (RC). **MC**: 19, Carl.F, 15 Apr (DK); 10, Johnson Co, 21 Apr (KM). **LD**: 3 May, CypCrk (KM et al.); 22 Apr (16), Carl.F (DK). **Others** (undocumented): **22-23 May** (2), Knox Co; **17 May** (2), Winnebago Co; **16 May**, Lake Co. This species of Dowitcher is little expected beyond early May, and there is but one documented IL record past mid-May (19 May 1997).

Common Snipe
EA: 3 Mar, Pulaski Co (KM); 11 Mar (3), Carl.C (DK); 14 Mar (2), Sang.L (HDB); 19 Mar, JP (KC, PC). **MC**: **210**, Gilford/MidFk, 14 Apr (RC); 157, Carl.F, 24 Mar (DK); 121, Pulaski Co, 29 Mar (KM); 16, Des Plaines R Wetlands Demonstration Project (Lake Co), 3 Apr (SH). **LD**: 8 May, Sauget Marsh (St. Clair Co) (DFS); 5 May (7), Carl.C (DK); 5 May, Sang.L (HDB); 5 May (2), Hoffman Estates (Cook Co) (AA).

American Woodcock
EA: 8 Feb, Madison Co (KM); 11 Feb, Urbana (RC); 11 Feb (8), Carl.C (DK); 27 Feb, Sgmn Co (HDB); 10 Mar, JP (PC). **MC**: **87**, Spoon L (Knox Co), 22 Mar (MB) — **record IL high count**, 20+, Urbana, 14 Mar (RC et al.); 15, Johnson Co, 3 Mar (KM); 6, Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co), 21 Mar (UG). **LD**: 15 May (2), Evanston (EW, JE).

Wilsons Phalarope
EA: 21 Apr (2), Carl.C (DK); 25 Apr, Ridgway tract, Pr.Rdg (LH); 25 Apr, Carl.F (KM); 1 May (female), Victoria (Knox Co) (MB). **LD**: 4 Jun, Del Monte ponds, Mendota (La Salle Co) (JH). Few reports; none in excess of two.

Red-necked Phalarope
EA: 13 May, Carl.C (DK); 17 May, Carl.F (KR). **MC**: 2 (pr), Carl.F, 21 May (KM). **LD**: 26 May, Carl.F (KR). Reported only from Carlyle L (Clinton/Fayette Cos).

Laughing Gull
EA (see Note): **3 Mar**, Fishhk (RC); **10 Mar**, Carl.C (DK); **19 Mar** (ad.), Frank Holten SP (St. Clair Co) (KM); 1 May (ad.), L Spfld (HDB); 5 May, Kane Co (*RH); 5 May, Kane Co (*RM); 6 May, La Salle County Nuclear Plant (La Salle Co) (DJS); 9 May, Waukegan (Lake Co) (RP). **MC**: 2, Carl.C, 21 Apr (DK); 2, Carl.F, 26 May (KR). **LD**: 1 Jun, Carl.F (CPA); 26 May (dead), GrtLakes (RP); 20-21 May, L Spfld (HDB); 20 May (ad.), Borrow Pits at HL (DFS). **Other**: **winter - 9 Mar**, Sgmn Co (HDB); **hybrid**, apparently **Laughing x Ring-billed Gull** (first-summer), 28 Apr - 20 May, Kentucky Fried Chicken Restaurant, LCal (*WM, TVB:ph.). **Note**: This years arrivals are the **first March records for IL** (with surprisingly early dates in March!), the earliest previous being 7 Apr 1991. It is unfortunate that no documentations were submitted. **Others:** 1, Montrose, Cook Co, 25 May (KH, ph).

Franklins Gull
EA: 15 Mar (ad.), L Spfld (HDB); 18 Mar & 24 Mar, Mermet L (FB); 22 Apr (ad.), IBSP (AS); 22 Apr (2), Montrose (GW). **MC**: 32, Sgmn Co, 27 May (HDB); 19, Clin.L, 27 May (RC); 4, Carl.F, 28 May (DK, KR). **LD**: 6 Jun (first-year), JP (PC); 30 May (6), L Spfld (HDB); 29 May (2 — ad. & first-year), Clin.L (MR, JS); 28 May (4), Carl.F (DK, KR). Widely reported.

Little Gull
Two reports; both from inland sites: **EA**: **31 Mar**, LShel (**Shelby Co**) (*RC) — **second earliest spring arrival**. **LD**: 1 May, Split Rock L (**La Salle Co**) (JH).

Bonapartes Gull
EA: **7 Feb** (2), Crab Or. and Baldwin L (St. Clair/Randolph Cos) (KM); 27 Feb, Sgmn Co (HDB); 6 Apr, Evanston (EW); 8 Apr (40), I & M Canal (La Salle Co) (DJS). **MC**: **4810**, GrtLakes, 27 Apr (EW); 1600, Hennepin L, 19 Apr (DFS); 400, Crab Or., 4 Apr (KM); 300, Carl C, 13 Apr (DK); 350, Sgmn Co, 11 Apr (HDB); 280, Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery (Mason Co), 5 Apr (R&SBj) — local record high count. **LD**: 30 May (**ad.**), L Spfld (HDB); 2 May (imm.), L Spfld (HDB); 29 Apr, Rend L (KM, DK), 23 Apr, JP (DJL, SF).

Ring-billed Gull
EA: **20 Jan**, Sgmn Co (HDB); 17 Feb, Homer L (Champaign Co, where none wintered) (RC, SB, m.ob.); 10 Mar (3), Little Swan L (Warren Co) (LLH). **MC**: **80,000**, Carl.C, 11 Mar (DK) — **ties record spring high count set at same site in 1996**; 3500, Sgmn Co, 22 Mar (HDB); 1000, Evergreen L (McLean Co), 3 Apr (MR); 1550, Hennepin L, 19 Apr (DFS). **LD**: 4 May (decreased numbers), Sgmn Co (HDB). See also Laughing Gull for apparent hybrid.

Herring Gull
MC: 300, LCal, 26 Mar (DFS); 40, Sgmn Co, 1 Mar (HDB); 20, Madison Co, 6 Mar (KM); 10, Carl.C, 11 Mar (DK). **LD**: 31 May (in heavy molt), Carl C (DK); 30 May (imm.), L Spfld (HDB). Modest numbers statewide.

Thayers Gull
EA: 3 Mar (imm.), LCal (WM); 11 Mar (ad.), McKee Marsh (Du Page Co) (UG); 18 Mar (ad.), Fermi (UG). **LD**: 5 May (ad.), Evanston (*EW, TB); 22 Apr, Montrose (GW). A few additional singles at L Michigan.

Iceland Gull
EA: 18 Mar (ad.), Fermi (UG) — the only report.

Lesser Black-backed Gull
EA: 3 Mar, North Point Marina, Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co) (SH); 17 Mar, Fermi (DTW); 17 Mar (ad.), L Spfld (HDB); 18 Mar (second-year), L Spfld (HDB). **LD**: 5 May, Lake Co (*RDH); 5 May, Lake Co (*BR); 5 May, Lake Co (*DDz); 23 Mar (ad.), HL (KM); 19 Mar (ad.), L Spfld (HDB). A few additional singles at L Michigan.

Glaucous Gull
EA: 18-21 Mar (second-year), JP (RDH, PC); 18 Mar, North Point Marina, Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co) (DRD). **LD**: 5 May, Lake Co (*DDz); 24 Mar, Monroe Harbor, Chi (GW). Singles only, confined to L Michigan.

Great Black-backed Gull
EA: 18 Mar (1st year), Rainbow Beach, Chi (AS); 26 Mar (1st year), Calumet P (LCal) (DFS). **LD**: 6 Apr (1st year), Grant P (DFS). All records possibly assignable to a single individual.

Caspian Tern
EA: 6 Apr, Evanston (EW); 6 Apr (3), JP (PC, BH); 8 Apr, Mermet L (FB); 10 Apr, L Spfld (HDB). **MC**: **200+**, Grant P, 19 Apr (DEW fide DFS); **185**, Evanston, 21 Apr (EW); **177**, JP, 18 Apr (KC); 9, Sgmn Co, 26 Apr (HDB); 6, Rend L (Jefferson Co), 23 Apr (KM). **LD**: 9 Jun (4 migrants), Evanston (EW); 21 May, Carl.F (KM); 18 May (2), Spoon L (Knox Co) (MB). Peak numbers at L Michigan occurred unusually early in season.

Common Tern
EA: 3 May (15), L Spfld (HDB); 20 May (first-year), Heyworth (McLean Co) (MR). **MC**: **1100**, Waukegan and GrtLakes, 12 May (AS) — second highest count on record; 230, Evanston, 9 May (EW); 15, L Spfld, as above. **LD**: 3 Jun, Rainbow Beach, Chi (DFS; 29 May (3), Clin.L (MR, JS); 27 May (17), L Spfld (HDB); 26 May, La Salle County Nuclear Plant (La Salle Co) (DJS). Very few reports over most of state, but highly localized high counts at n L Michigan sites.

Forsters Tern
EA: 10 Apr, Starved Rock SP (La Salle Co) (JH); 11 Apr (2), Sang.L (HDB); 14 Apr (4), Evanston (EW); 14 Apr (3), OFallon (St. Clair Co) (DK). **MC**: 45, GrtLakes, 27 Apr (EW); 42, Carl.F, 11 May (DK); 20, Sgmn Co, 26 & 29 Apr (HDB). **LD**: 15 Jun (4 — summering?), GrtLakes (EW); into Jun, Sgmn Co (HDB); 29 May (2), Clin.L (MR, JS); 22 May (6), HL (KM, IOS). **Other** (undocumented): **4 Mar** (2), Mermet L — the date is unprecedented, as there is only one other March date for IL (23 Mar 1991), and that was published as a second-hand report.

Least Tern
EA: 12 May, Massac Co (FB). **MC**: 6+ (ad.), just w of Cache (Alexander Co), 28 May (MR, JS). **LD**: 30 May, L Spfld (KM); 30 May, Sang.L (HDB).

Black Tern
EA: 5 May (2), L Spfld (HDB); 11 May (4), Carl.F (DK). **MC**: **500**, Carl.F, 26-27 May (KR, DK); **260**, Hennepin L, 23 May (DFS); 228, Sgmn Co, 26 May (HDB). **LD**: into Jun, Sgmn Co (HDB); 5 Jun, Pillsbury Pond, St. Charles (Kane Co) (DJS).

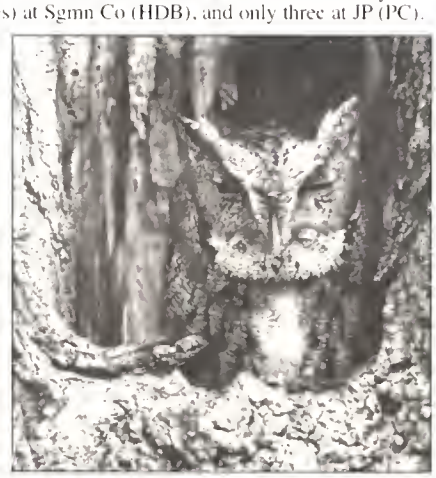
Rock Dove **MC**: 350, s Cook Co, 17 Mar (DFS); 50, Carl.C, 17 Mar (DK) — the only non-SBC high counts reported.

Mourning Dove
MC: 80, Kankakee Co, 8 Apr (DFS); 36, Sgmn Co, 3 Mar (HDB); 34 (migrating), Evanston, 7 Apr (EW); 30, Carl.C, 18 Mar & 6 May (DK). A weak migration, with no arrival or departure dates discerned.

Monk Parakeet
MC: 76 (including 21 nests), three sites at LCal, 11 Mar (WM); 25, JP, 6 Apr (PC, BH).

Black-billed Cuckoo
EA: 2 May, Linc.P (GW); 4 May, Knox College (MB); 5 May (2), s Clinton Co (KM); 5 May, Mermet L (FB). **MC**: 2, s Clinton Co, 5 May (KM) — the only high count reported. **LD**: 24 May, Sang.L (HDB); 23 May, JP (PC, KC); 19 May, Carl.F (DK, MD). Once again, observers statewide commented on the **critically low numbers of both species of cuckoos**, e.g., no cuckoos at all at Grant P (DFS, TS); only one of each species at McLean Co all season (MR); season totals of only four Black-billed Cuckoos (all singles) at Sgmn Co (HDB), and only three at JP (PC).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
EA: 25 Apr, Massac Co (FB); 28 Apr, Atwood Ridge (Union Co) (KM, DK, VL); 30 Apr, Montrose (GW); 1 May, Knox College (MB); 3 May, three miles ne of Marietta (Fulton Co) (LLH). **MC**: 4, Sgmn Co, 18 May (HDB); 3, Carl.F, 14 May (KM) & 28 May (DK); 3, Carl.C, 19 May (DK); 2, Swallow Cliffs FP, Palos, 9 May (DFS). **LD**: 17 Jun, JP (GD) — the only one of season for site. See comments at Black-billed Cuckoo.



Eastern Screech-Owl. Sangamon County 9 April 2001. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Barn Owl
1 Apr (at known nest box), Union Co (KM); 26 Apr through summer (pr), Pr.Rdg (LH, *JW et al.); 5 May, Pike Co (*JF).

Eastern Screech-Owl
MC: 11, Palos, 3 Mar (EW, KW, WS). Almost no reports, no other counts contributed.

Great Horned Owl
MC: 12, Palos, 3 Mar (WS, EW, KW); 3 (including one fledgling), Chau, 3 May (R&SBj). **LD**: **9 May**, JP (SF et al.) — the only migrant reported.

Barred Owl
MC: 8, Carl.C, 5 May (DK); 3 (young), La Rue-Pine Hills Ecological Area (Union Co), 3 May (KM); 3, Sgmn Co, 10 Apr & 5 May (HDB); 2, McClaughry Springs Wds FP, Palos, all spring (WS); 2, Des Plaines R (Du Page Co), 18 May (MBC). **Other** (north): 13 Apr, Waterfall Glen FP (Du Page Co) (UG).

Long-eared Owl
EA: 25 Feb (female), JP (BH, PC). **LD**: 28 Mar, Sang.L (HDB); 20 Mar (male), JP (SC, KC). **Other**: 5 Mar (one dead on thorn of black locust tree), s end of L Spfld (HDB — specimen to IL State Museum). Singles only.

Short-eared Owl
EA: 9 Mar, Richland Co (LH); 18 Mar, La Salle Co (DJS); 7 Apr, Orland P (residential backyard) (Cook Co) (WS). **MC**: 11, Peabody R King Fish & Wildlife Area (St. Clair Co), 29 Mar (TM); 7, Pr.Rdg, 24 Mar (KM, IOS); 7, Evanston, 7 Apr (EW); 6, w of Spfld, 3 Mar (HDB). **LD**: **1 May**, JP (PC, SC); 7 Apr, Johnson Co (KM). **Others** (nesting?): 5 May, Jasper Co (*JW et al.); 15 Apr, New Athens (St. Clair Co) (DK).

Northern Saw-whet Owl
LD: 25 Mar, Carl.C (DK); 21 Mar, Robert Allerton P (Piatt Co) (RB fide RC); 8-10 Mar, Thompsonville (Franklin Co) (*LS). The only reports.

Common Nighthawk
EA: 23 Apr, Madison Co (KM); 30 Apr, Spfld (HDB); 1 May, Galesburg (Knox Co) (MB); 10 May (2), JP (PC, SF). **MC**: 13, Sgmn Co, 16 May (HDB); 6+, Bushnell (McDonough Co), 24 May (LLH); 4, Carl.F, 11 May & 19 May (DK); 3, OFallon (St. Clair Co), 9 May (KM). **LD**: 24 May (6+), Bushnell (McDonough Co) (LLH). Poor numbers; clearly declining at many sites.

Chuck-wills-widow
EA: **8 Apr**, Massac Co (FB) — **record early IL arrival** by four days; **13 Apr** (4), Ferne Clyffe SP (Johnson Co) (KM) — third earliest on record; 5 May, Stephen A. Forbes SP (Marion Co) (LH).

Whip-poor-will
EA: 4 Apr (3), Ferne Clyffe SP (Johnson Co) (KM); **6 Apr**, McCormick Place, Chi (DEW fide DFS) — third earliest record for n IL; 9 Apr (2), Sang.L (HDB). **MC**: 6, Ferne Clyffe SP (Johnson Co), 13 Apr (KM); 4, nw Madison Co, 19 May (DFS). **LD**: 16 May, Grant P (DFS).

Chimney Swift
EA: **25 Mar** (3), CypCrk (FB) — **second earliest IL arrival**; 1 Apr, Pulaski Co (KM); **6 Apr**, JP (PC, BH) — second earliest for n IL; 7 Apr, w of Spfld (HDB); 14 Apr (2), JP (KC). **MC**: 330, Rainbow Beach, Chi, 3 Jun (DFS); 250, HL, 22 May (KM); 165, JP, 11 May (PC); 100, Sgmn Co, 23 & 26 May (HDB). **Others**: 40-50 killed around L Spfld amid cool, rainy weather at end of May (HDB).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
EA: **6 Apr** (male at feeder), Massac Co (FB) — **record early IL arrival** by three days; **10 Apr**, La Rue-Pine Hills Ecological Area (Union Co) (KM); 11 Apr (at feeder), West Frankfort (Franklin Co) (LS); 27 Apr, Schuyler Co (LLH); 27 Apr (male), Carp.P (HDB); 30 Apr, Boone Co (AB); 6 May, Bull Valley (McHenry Co) (DF); 6 May (male), JP (TVB et al.). **MC**: 12 (at feeder), New Athens (St. Clair Co), 28 May (DK); 5, Fort Massac SP (Massac Co), 22 Apr (KM); 4, Sgmn Co, 8 May (HDB). **LD**: 4 Jun (female), Grant P (DFS); 28 May (female), JP (KC).

Belted Kingfisher
EA: 3 Mar (male), Sang.L (HDB); 20 Mar (female), JP (PC, SC). **MC**: 4, Sgmn Co, 10 Apr (HDB); 3, Evanston, 7 Apr (EW); 3, JP, 7 Apr (PC, SC); 3, Pomona, 10 Apr (KM). **LD**: 17 May (female), JP (PC). Numbers reported as below par at Carl.C (DK) and at JP (PC).

Red-headed Woodpecker
EA: 16 Apr (increase), Sgmn Co (HDB); 27 Apr, Maple Grove FP (Du Page Co) (UG); 27 Apr, JP (fide PC). **MC**: 24, se Kankakee Co, 8 Apr (DFS); 8, Clinton Co, 5 May (KM); 5, Winnebago Co, 12 May (DTW). **LD**: 19 May, JP (KC). The count of 24is the highest spring tally reported since 1991, but the early Apr date indicates resident populations (no respectable counts of migrants were received), and the high count seems to reflect the astuteness of the observer rather than any indication of recovery. Poor numbers reported elsewhere; none (!) found at Grant P (DFS).

Red-bellied Woodpecker
EA: 29 Apr (male), JP (EL); 2 May, Evanston (EW). **MC**: 17, Palos, 2 May (DFS); 16, Sgmn Co, 5 May (HDB); 15, Clinton Co, 5 May (KM); 10, McNaughton P (Tazewell Co), 29 May (TL). **LD**: 14 May (male), JP (PC, SC).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
EA: 25 Mar, Massac Co (FB); 30 Mar (3), Sgmn Co (HDB); 5 Apr (2 males), JP (PC, KC). **MC**: 17, JP, 10 Apr (PC, BH); 13, LCal, 13 Apr (DFS); 8, Sgmn Co, 6-7 Apr (HDB); 2, Pomona, 4 Apr (KM). **LD**: 11 May (2), Grant P (DFS); 23 Apr, Sgmn Co (HDB); 10 Apr, Pomona (KM). **Other**: **red-naped variant**(male), 5 Apr, Lick Creek (Sgmn Co) (HDB).

Downy Woodpecker
MC: 14, Jackson Co, 10 Apr (KM); 12, Sgmn Co, 14 Apr (HDB); 12, Palos, 2 May (DFS).

Hairy Woodpecker
MC: 7, Clinton Co, 5 May (KM); 6, Sgmn Co, 21 Apr (HDB); 2, Eggers Wds FP, LCal, 8 Apr (CM). **Others** (vagrant): 22 Mar (female), JP (PC); 9 May, Evanston (EW).

Northern Flicker
EA: 19 Mar, JP (PC); 31 Mar (increase), Sgmn Co (HDB). **MC**: **66+**, JP, 9 Apr (BH, PC); 43, Grant P, 9 Apr (DFS); 25, Union Co, 3 Mar (KM); 21, Urbana, 6 Apr (RC); 19, Sgmn Co, 6 Apr (HDB). **LD**: 1 May (5), JP (PC); 23 Apr (decrease), Sgmn Co (HDB). **Other**: A **Red-shafted Flicker** was reported with no details in far sw IL on the unlikely date of **28 May**.

Pileated Woodpecker
MC: 9, Union Co, 1 Apr (KM); 5, Sgmn Co, 14 Apr (HDB). **Others** (vagrant): 20 Apr (male), Waterfall Glen FP (Du Page Co) (JC); 4 May, one mile s of Chinquapin Bluffs Psv (Woodford Co) (MF).

Olive-sided Flycatcher
EA: 3 May, Wadsworth Wetlands Project (Lake Co) (RP); 10 May, Urbana (EC fide RC). **MC**: 2, Skokie R NPsv, L Bluff section (Lake Co), 29 May (RP); 2, Glacial P (McHenry Co), 2 Jun (DFS). **LD**: 6 Jun, Castle Rock SP (Ogle Co) (DFS); 4 Jun, Grant P (DFS); 29 May, Sgmn Co (HDB); 27 May, Carl.C (DK). Even scarcer than usual at many sites.

Eastern Wood-Pewee
EA: 24 Apr (5), Boone Co (AB); 25 Apr, Massac Co (FB); 27 Apr (male), Carp.P (HDB); 1 May (male), JP (PC, SC). **MC**: 19, Sgmn Co, 19 May (HDB); 13, Grant P, 15 May (DFS); 12, Madison Co, 20 May (DFS); 11, Carl.C, 21 May (KM); 11, McNaughton P (Tazewell Co), 29 May (TL). **LD**: 10 Jun (male), JP (PC).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
EA: **6 May**, JP (PC); 11 May, Urbana (RC); 11 May, Lincoln Memorial Garden near Spfld (HDB). **MC**: 6, Urbana, 28 May (RC); 4, JP, 16 May (PC); 4, Rainbow Beach, Chi, 3 Jun (DFS). **LD**: into Jun, Sgmn Co (HDB); 7 Jun (2), Foley Pond, Highland P (Lake Co) (DRD); 7 Jun (4), Grant P (DFS); 2 Jun (3), Urbana (RC). None reported from s IL.

Acadian Flycatcher
EA: **15 Apr**, Massac Co (FB); **16 Apr**, Pomona (DK) — **record early IL arrivals**; 27 Apr, Atwood Ridge (Union Co) (KM); 1 May, Knox College (MB); 4 May, Starved Rock SP (La Salle Co) (JH). **MC**: 8, Clinton Co, 5 May (KM) — the only count in excess of two. **LD**: 2 Jun, Urbana (RC).

Traills Flycatcher
EA: **29 Apr** (perched in a willow tree), JP (SF et al.) — ties previous early arrival date for Willow Flycatcher in n IL. **MC**: 16, Grant P, 22 May (DFS). **LD**: 15 Jun, Grant P (DFS).

Eastern Phoebe. Washington Park, Springfield, IL. 17 April 2001. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Alder Flycatcher
EA: **6 May**, Champaign (Champaign Co) (RC); **6 May**, Pulaski Co (FB) — **both record early IL arrivals** by one day; 11 May, Grant P (DFS); 11 May, JP (SC). **MC**: 16, Urbana, 28 May (RC); 6, Ewing P, 24 May (MR). **LD**: into Jun, Sgmn Co (HDB); 9 Jun, Iroquois Co CA (Iroquois Co) (DFS); 4 Jun, Glacial P (McHenry Co) (DFS); 27 May (2), Carl.F (DK).

Willow Flycatcher
EA (see also Traills Flycatcher): **30 Apr**, Sang.L (HDB) — first April record for county and third earliest for IL; 5 May (2 singing), Hoffman Estates (Cook Co) (AA); 6 May (2), Pulaski Co (FB). **MC**: 3, Sgmn Co, 18 & 30 May (HDB) — the only count greater than two reported, but see also Traills Flycatcher. **LD**: 4 Jun, Skokie (Cook Co) (EW); 3 Jun, Rainbow Beach, Chi (DFS); 19 May, Carl.C (DK).

Least Flycatcher
EA: 22 Apr, Fort Massac SP (Massac Co) (KM); 23 Apr, JP (PC); 26 Apr, Urbana (RC). **MC**: 16, Grant P, 11 May (DFS); 14, JP, 11 May (PC); 11, Urbana, 28 May (RC). **LD**: into Jun, Sgmn Co (HDB); 8 Jun, Crittendon Township (Champaign Co) (RC); 4 Jun, Grant P (DFS); 27 May, Carl.C (DK).

Eastern Phoebe
EA: 10 Mar, Spoon L (Knox Co) (MB); 13 Mar, Ewing P (MH); 19 Mar, Grant P (DFS); 28 Mar, Frank Holten SP (St. Clair Co) (KM). **MC**: 24, JP, 7 Apr (PC, SC); 15, Grant P, 6 Apr (DFS); 9, Urbana, 17 Mar (RC); 6, Clinton Co, 5 May (KM). **LD**: 6 May, Evanston (EW); 3 May (male), JP (SC, PC).

Great Crested Flycatcher
EA: 18 Apr, Massac Co (FB); 22 Apr (2), Spfld (HDB); 23 Apr, Grant P (TS). **MC**: 16, Swallow Cliffs FP, Palos, 9 May (DFS); 15, Clinton Co, 5 May (KM); 13, Sgmn Co, 18 May (HDB).

Western Kingbird
EA: **24 Apr**, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, L Spfld (HDB) — second earliest IL arrival date; 9 May (2), Granite City (Madison Co) (KM). **MC**: 5, Granite City (Madison Co), 20 May (KM, IOS). **Other**: 18 May, East St. Louis (St. Clair Co) (KM).

Eastern Kingbird
EA: **7 Apr**, UCCA (KM) — **record early IL arrival** by one day; 13 Apr (2), Carl.C (DK); 18 Apr, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, L Spfld (HDB); 24 Apr, JP (KC); 24 Apr, Lockport Prairie, Lockport (Will Co) (CA). **MC**: 54, Sgmn Co, 19 May (HDB); 40, Carl.C, 12 May (DK); 24, Palos, 5 May (WS).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
All reports: **EA**: 29 Apr, Skokie R NPsv, Lake Forest (Lake Co) (RP); 4 May (male), Chinquapin Bluffs (Woodford Co) (BD et al. fide MF); 5 May (male), Funks Grove (McLean Co) (*DB et al.); 5 May, Union Co (fide RSM); 8 May (female), Moraine View SP (McLean Co) (MR, JGR, RF); 9 May, n of El Paso (Woodford Co) (SR fide MR). **MC**: 2 (pr?), Union Co, 12 May (*RSM).

Loggerhead Shrike
EA: 14 Apr (2), sw of Spfld (HDB). **MC**: 4, Clinton Co, 5 May (KM); 4, Carl.C, 20 May (DK); 2, sw of Spfld, 14 Apr & 9 May (HDB); 2, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (Will Co), 31 May (DRD). **LD**: **2 Jun**, Montrose (KH fide EW); 29 Apr, Evanston (EW).

Northern Shrike
LD: 16 Mar, Lyons Wds (Lake Co) (SH); 3 Mar, Pesotum (Champaign Co) (RC); 2 Mar, Goose L Prairie SP (Grundy Co) (JC).

White-eyed Vireo
EA: 7 Apr (3), Pomona (KM); 11 Apr, Wash.P (HDB); 28 Apr, Marengo Ridge CA (McHenry Co) (DF); 29 Apr, JP (BH, PC). **MC**: 21, Jackson Co, 21 Apr (KM); 12, Carl.C, 5 May (DK); 6, Bureau Co, 5 May (DFS); 4, Sgmn Co, 26 Apr & 2 May (HDB). **LD**: 2 May, JP (PC).

Bells Vireo
EA: **27 Apr**, Union Co (FB) — **ties previous record early arrival** from 1976; **28 Apr** (male), Sang.L (HDB) — second earliest IL arrival date; 1 May, Ewing P (MR, WCH); 1 May, Carl.C (KM). **MC**: 4, Clinton Co, 5 May (KM); 4, Carl.C, 12 May (DK); 4, Sgmn Co, 19 May (HDB). **LD**: 23 May, Depue

(Bureau Co) (DFS) — the only report from n IL.

Yellow-throated Vireo
EA: 7 Apr, La Rue-Pine Hills Ecological Area (Union Co) (KM); 15 Apr, Fort Massac SP (Massac Co) (FB); 19 Apr, Lincoln Memorial Garden near Spfld (HDB); 22 Apr, Urbana (RC); 28 Apr, JP (KEH). **MC**: 9, Clinton Co, 5 May (KM); 5, Urbana, 12 May (RC); 2, JP, 11 May (PC). **LD**: 28 May, Urbana (RC); 16 May, JP (KC).

Blue-headed Vireo
EA: 8 Apr, Stielbecks tract near Mermet L (FB); 15 Apr, Urbana (RC); 26 Apr (2), JP (SF, KC). **MC**: 6, Sgmn Co, 25 Apr (HDB); 4, Urbana, 13 May (RC); 3, Bemis Wds FP (we Cook Co), 30 Apr (DFS); 2, Fort Massac SP (Massac Co), 22 Apr (KM). **LD**: 20 May, Bloomington (McLean Co) (RC); 15 May, JP (SC, PC); 5 May, Carl.C (DK).

Warbling Vireo
EA: 8 Apr, Mermet L (KM) — second earliest IL arrival; 10 Apr (4), Mermet L (FB); 15 Apr (3 males), Sgmn Co (HDB); 21 Apr, Kickapoo SP (Vermilion Co) (RC, IOS); 23 Apr (2 males), JP (DJJ, SF). **MC**: 27, LCal, 3 May (DFS); 23, Clinton Co, 5 May (KM); 17, Sgmn Co, 5 May (HDB). **LD**: 3 Jun, Rainbow Beach, Chi (DFS).

Philadelphia Vireo
EA: 1 May, Adams Sanctuary, Spfld (HDB); 2 May, Urbana (RC); 5 May, Wolf L (LCal) (CM); 6 May, Massac Co (FB). **MC**: 12+, Ewing P, 25 May (MR, DTW) — **ties record spring high counts** (from 1985); 10, same site, 26 May (RC); 5, Urbana, 28 May (RC); 3, Grant P, 14 May (DFS); 3, Wolf L (LCal), 27 May (WM). **LD**: 7 Jun, Grant P (DFS); 1 Jun, Urbana (RC); 27 May, Carl.C (DK).

Red-eyed Vireo
EA: 10 Apr (3), Pomona (KM) — **record early IL arrival** by one day; 13 Apr, Mermet L (FB); 18 Apr & 22 Apr, M.Arb (JC) — second earliest arrival for n IL; 22 Apr, Urbana (RC). **MC**: 150, Urbana, 11 May (RC) — third highest IL count on record; 38, Sgmn Co, 12 May (HDB); 27, Swallow Cliffs FP, Palos, 9 May (DFS); 20, Clinton Co, 5 May (KM); 17 (late migrants), JP, 6 Jun (PC). **LD**: 15 Jun, Grant P (DFS); 10 Jun (male), JP (PC).

Blue Jay
EA: 21 Apr (5), Evanston (EW); 23 Apr (9), JP (PC et al.). **MC**: 886 (in one hour), Evanston, 2 May (EW) — **record spring high count for IL**; 427, same site, 9 May (EW); 320, same site, 11 May (EW); 232, JP, 1 May (PC); 44, Carl.C, 19 May (DK); 42, e Kankakee Co, 8 Apr (DFS). **LD**: 15 Jun, Grant P (DFS).

American Crow
MC: 300, HL, 5 Mar (KM); 130, Sgmn Co, 5 Mar (HDB); 85, Kankakee Co, 8 Apr (DFS); 43, JP, 21 Mar (PC).

Fish Crow
EA: 5 Mar, Madison Co (KM); 11 Mar (2), Mermet L (FB); 27 Mar, Cardondale (Jackson Co) (RSM). **MC**: 17, Mermet L, 8 Apr (KM).

Horned Lark
EA: 8 Feb (16), JP (PC, BH). **MC**: 73, Kankakee Co, 17 Mar (DFS); 50, Sgmn Co, 3 Mar (HDB); 50, Carl.C, 10 Mar (DK). **LD**: 8 Apr, Evanston (EW); 28 Mar (3), Monee (Will Co) (AA).

Purple Martin
EA: 4 Mar (5), Mermet L (FB); 13 Mar (2), Columbia (Monroe Co) (DK); 19 Mar (female), Sang.L (HDB) — record early for county; 21 Mar (male), Sgmn Co (HDB); 7 Apr, Arcola (Douglas Co) (RC); 22 Apr, McGinnis Slough, Palos (UG); 23 Apr, Crystal L (McHenry Co) (DF). **MC**: 120, Carl.C, 12 May (DK); 60, Mermet L, 1 Apr (KM); 20, Sgmn Co, 31 May (HDB).

Tree Swallow
EA: 2 Mar (2), Carl.C (DK); 3 Mar (8), Grassy L (Union Co) (KM); 6 Mar (2), Mermet L (FB); 12 Mar (6), Sang.L (HDB); 18 Mar, Clin.L (RC); 25 Mar (45), Dresden Power Plant (Grundy Co) (DJS). **MC**: 3000, CrabOr., 16 Apr (KM); 150, Carl.C, 6 May (DK); 140, Sgmn Co, 17 Apr (HDB); 45, Dresden Power Plant (Grundy Co), 25 Mar (DJS). **LD**: 23 May, JP (KC).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow
EA: 24 Mar, Mermet L (FB); 31 Mar, LShel (RC); 3 Apr, Buckhart (Sgmn Co) (HDB); 7 Apr, Evanston (EW); 7 Apr, Royce Road, Bolingbrook (Will Co) (UG). **MC**: 40, Evanston, 11 May (EW); 37, JP, 5 May (SC et al.); 30, Mermet L, 4 Apr (KM); 13, Sgmn Co, 5 May (HDB).

Bank Swallow
EA: 7 Apr (3), Union Co (KM); 10 Apr (2), Sang.L (HDB); 11 Apr, MidFk (RC); 1 May (2), JP (SC). **MC**: 300, Sgmn Co, 26 May (HDB); 300, L Spfld, 30 May (KM); 120, Hennepin L, 23 May (DFS); 84, Evanston, 15 May (EW); 40, Carl.C, 27 May (DK).

Cliff Swallow
EA: 8 Apr (2), Spfld (HDB); 8 Apr (25), Fort Massac SP (Massac Co) (KM); 20 Apr (2), JP (BH, PC). **MC**: 2340 (many on ground under dense fog), Chau, 25 May (R&SB)); 550, Sgmn Co, 26 May (HDB); 350, Hennepin L, 25 May (DFS); 85, Rend L, 17 Apr (KM); 70, Fort Massac SP (Massac Co), 22 Apr (KM); 40, Carl.C, 20 May (DK). **LD**: 4 Jun (6), Grant P (DFS).

Barn Swallow
EA: 24 Mar (3), Mermet L (FB); 28 Mar (2), Monroe Co (KM); 6 Apr (2), JP (PC, BH); 7 Apr, widespread in c IL (m.ob.). **MC**: 80, Carl.C, 12 May (DK); 50, HL, 22 May (KM); 48, JP, 5 May (PC et al.); 25, Sgmn Co, 10 Apr & 5 May (HDB).

Carolina Chickadee
MC: 48, Union Co, 1 Apr (KM) — **highest published spring count** excluding SBC data; 12, Carl.C, 31 Mar & 5 May (DK).

Black-capped Chickadee
MC: 34, Ogle Co, 10 Mar (DFS); 22, Sgmn Co, 14 Apr (HDB). **Others** (south): 4, n Effingham Co, all season through 25 Apr (MAH).

Tufted Titmouse
MC: 32, Clinton Co, 5 May (KM); 30, Sgmn Co, 14 Apr (HDB); 10, Palos, 2 May (DFS).

Red-breasted Nuthatch
EA: 27 Apr (2), JP (DES, MS); 2 May, Maple Grove FP (Du Page Co) (UG); 4 May, Grant P (TS). **MC**: 2, JP, 27 Apr (DES, MS). **LD**: 13 May, Stickney Run (McHenry Co) (DFS); 12 May, Sgmn Co (HDB) — the only report outside ne IL; 10 May, Montrose (WS). **Others** (presumably overwintering): 1 Mar-14 Apr, Woodridge (Du Page Co) (MBC); 3 Mar, M.Arb (UG). Not a flight year.

White-breasted Nuthatch
MC: 17, Sgmn Co, 14 Apr (HDB); 12, Palos, 2 May (DFS); 9, Clinton Co, 5 May (KM). **Other** (vagrant): 10 Apr, JP (VF).

Brown Creeper
EA: 28 Mar, JP (PC); 5 Apr, Bushnell (McDonough Co) (LLH). **MC**: 17, JP, 9 Apr (PC, BH); 10, Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co), 7 Apr (UG); 10, Grant P, 9 Apr (DFS); 4, Sgmn Co, 11 Apr (HDB); 3, Fort Massac SP (Massac Co), 5 Apr (KM). **LD**: 29 Apr (2), JP (PC); 21 Apr, CypCrk (FB); 20 Apr, Sgmn Co (HDB). **Others** (summering?): 12 May (2), Sugar R FP (Winnebago Co) (DTW).

Carolina Wren
MC: 11, Massac Co, 22 Apr (KM); 8, Sgmn Co, 6 Apr (HDB); 4, Mahomet (Champaign Co), 5 May (RC). **Others** (north): 19 Mar, Rockford (DTW); 21-27 Apr (territorial male), GrtLakes (EW); 13 May, M.Arb (UG).

Bewicks Wren
EA: 8 Apr, Rockford (DTW); 10 Apr, Beall Wds NPsv & SP (Wabash Co) (LH) — only reports. This species is now virtually extirpated in IL and documentation of sightings is strongly encouraged.

House Wren
EA: 8 Apr, JP (PC, SC) — record early arrival for n IL; 11 Apr, Urbana (RC); 13 Apr (2), Carl.C (DK); 13 Apr (2), Union Co (KM); 13 Apr, Massac Co (FB); 14 Apr, JP (PC, BH); . MC: 32, LCal, 3 May (DFS); 17, Dirksen P (Tazewell Co), 25 May (TL); 15, Carl.C, 19 May (DK); 13, Sgmn Co, 5 May (HDB). **Other**: 3 Apr (wintered?), Harvard (McHenry Co) (DF).

Winter Wren
EA: 3 Mar, LShel (RC); 7 Mar (2), Mermet L (KM); 28 Mar (2), Sgmn Co (HDB); 30 Mar, Ewing P (MH); 4 Apr, JP (PC). **MC**: 7, JP, 9 Apr (PC, BH); 5, Pomona, 4 Apr (KM); 4, Sgmn Co, 6 & 8 Apr (HDB). **LD**: 29 Apr (2), JP (PC); 25 Apr, Carp.P (HDB); 21 Apr, CypCrk (FB). Poor numbers.

Sedge Wren
EA: 27 Apr, CypCrk (FB); 5 May (2), JP (SC, PC); 5 May, Victoria (Knox Co) (KR); 5 May, Moraine View SP (McLean Co) (MR et al.). **MC**: 2, JP, 5 May (SC, PC) — the only high count reported. **LD**: 24 May, JP (KC). Extremely poor numbers; only one record each for Sgmn Co (HDB) and Grant P (DFS).

Marsh Wren
EA: 21 Apr, JP (BH, PC); 26 Apr, Urbana (RC); 5 May (2), Mermet L (FB). **MC**: 3, Evergreen L (McLean Co), 5 May (AC) — the only report greater than two. **LD**: 29 May, Sang.L (HDB); 27 May, Carl.F (DK); 15 May, Wilmette (Cook Co) (EW). Very poor numbers.

Golden-crowned Kinglet
EA: 26 Mar (female), Wash.P (HDB); 28 Mar (2 males), JP (PC). **MC**: 30, Urbana, 6 Apr (RC); 20, Heron Pond (Johnson Co), 5 Apr (KM); 18+, JP, 6 Apr (PC, BH). **LD**: 5 May, Winnebago Co (*JJ); 5 May, Cook Co (*JEL); 2 May, Anglers P, Bloomington (McLean Co) (MR, TEB); 13 Apr (3), Mermet L (FB); 13 Apr, La Rue-Pine Hills Ecological Area (Union Co) (KM). A weak passage with early departures over most of state.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet
EA: 4 Apr, Wash.P (HDB); 6 Apr (2), Downers Grove (Du Page Co) (UG); 6 Apr (3), JP (BH, PC). **MC**: 40, Urbana, 22 Apr (RC); 37,Sgmn Co, 15 Apr (HDB); 25, I & M Canal (La Salle Co), 8 Apr (DJS); 24, Bemis Wds FP (we Cook Co), 11 Apr (DFS); 11, Jackson Co, 10 Apr (KM). **LD**: 27 May, Ewing P (MR); 17 May, JP (PC); 15 May (2), Grant P (DFS); 13 May, Urbana (RC); 27Apr, Mermet L (FB); 27 Apr (2), Atwood Ridge (Union Co) (KM).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
EA: 31 Mar (6), Mermet L; 6 Apr, Ewing P (MH); 7 Apr (4), JP (DD). **MC**: 73, Fort Massac SP (Massac Co), 22 Apr (KM); 26, JP, 26 Apr (PC, BH); 20, Urbana, 22 Apr (RC); 20, Palos, 2 May (DFS).

Eastern Bluebird
EA: 27 Jan, Sgmn Co (HDB) — third earliest migrant report for IL; 3 Mar, M.Arb (UG); 7 Mar, JP (PC); 11 Mar (2), Rockford (DTW). **MC**: 13, Monroe Co, 28 Mar (KM); 13, Sgmn Co, 19 & 30 May (HDB); 7 (migrants), JP, 15 May (SC). **LD**: 4 Jun (male), Grant P (DFS); 22 May (female), JP (PC); 15 May (female), Evanston (EW). Split migration reported from JP, with first passage through 19 Mar (5) (PC,KC) and second passage beginning 23 Apr (male) (PC).

Veery
EA: 25 Apr, Urbana (RC); 25 Apr, Atwood Ridge (Union Co) (KM); 30 Apr, Humboldt P, Chi (AA). **MC**: 25, Evanston, 15 May (JE); 13 (breeding population), Lowden-Miller SF (Ogle Co), 17 May (DFS); 7, Sgmn Co, 12 May (HDB). **LD**: 3 Jun, Rogers P (Chi) (FS); 2 Jun, Urbana (RC); 30 May, Oak R (Sgmn Co) (HDB). Only two singles reported from s IL.

Gray-cheeked Thrush
EA: 22 Apr, Heron Pond (Johnson Co) (KM); 24 Apr, JP (KA, PC); 26 Apr, Urbana (RC). **MC**: 6, Sgmn Co, 11 May (HDB); 6, Evanston, 15 May (JE); 3, Mermet L, 5 May (FB). **LD**: 27 May (2), Carp.P (HDB); 24 May, JP (PC); 14 May, Carl.C (KM); 12 May, Pomona (RSM). Very poor numbers.

Swainsons Thrush
EA: 22 Apr, Urbana (RC); 23 Apr (4), JP (SC, PC); 25 Apr, Pomona (KM); 25 Apr (5), Mermet L (FB). **MC**: 47, Evanston, 15 May (JE); 34, Grant P, 15 May (DFS); 25, Sgmn Co, 12 May (HDB); 7, Carl.C, 9 May (KM). **LD**: mto Jun, Sgmn Co (HDB); 7 Jun, Foley Pond, Highland P (Lake Co) (DRD); 5 Jun, Grant P (DFS); 29 May, Urbana (RC); 27 May, Carl.C (DK). A very poor season; absurdly low numbers at JP (PC); season total at Grant P of 73 sightings — about **75% below average** (DFS).

Hermit Thrush
EA: 19 Mar, Massac Co (FB); 24 Mar (3), Urbana (RC); 5 Apr (3), JP (PC, KC). **MC**: 25+, JP, 21 Apr (PC); 21, Grant P, 9 Apr (DFS); 14, Urbana, 6 Apr (RC); 13, Sgmn Co, 20 Apr (HDB). **LD**: 12 May (2), JP (PC); 6 May, Maple Grove FP (Du Page Co) (UG); 2 May (2), Wash.P (HDB); 13 Apr (2), Pomona (KM); 13 Apr, Carl.C (DK). Weak passage, with almost no reports from s IL.

Wood Thrush
EA: **8 Apr**, Sielhecks tract near Mermet L (FB); 17 Apr, Heron Pond (Johnson Co) (KM); 21 Apr (2), Carl.C (DK); 22 Apr, Moraine View SP (McLean Co) (RF); 22 Apr, Urbana (RC); 23 Apr, JP (PC). **MC**: 16, Clinton Co, 6 May (KM); 12, Bureau Co, 5 May (DFS); 12, Mahomet (Champaign Co), 5 May (RC). **LD**: 31 May, Grant P (DFS); 16 May, JP (PC).

American Robin
EA: **13 Jan**, Sgmn Co (HDB) — see Remarks; **8 Feb** (9), JP (SC, PC) — ties earliest arrival date for site; 8 Feb (60+), Galesburg (Knox Co) (MB). **MC**: 1050, Evanston, 7 Apr (EW); 500, Urbana/Champaign (Champaign Co), 17 Mar (RC); 500, Carl.C, 25 Mar (DK); 356, JP, 19 Mar (PC). **LD**: 3 May (5 migrants), JP (PC). **Others**: **partial albino**: 16 Apr, Lanark (Carroll Co) (*DW, m.ob.); **dark variants**: Some very dark Rohins…all had dark throats, black head, nape and black in back mixed with dark gray, 8 & 25 Mar, Sgmn Co (HDB). **Remarks**: While Bohlens (1989) *Birds of Illinois* notes that [s]pring migration may start as early as mid-January…, the earliest published date in the IL journals prior to this year is 22 Jan 1990.

Gray Cathird
EA: **15 Apr**, Pomona (RSM); 22 Apr, Anglers P, Bloomington (McLean Co) (RF); 22 Apr (5), Adams Sanctuary, Spfld (HDB); 23 Apr (6), JP (SC, PC). **MC**: **107**, Grant P, 11 May (DFS); 53, JP, 11 May (PC); 34, Carl.C, 9 May (KM); 30, Sgmn Co, 12 May (HDB). **LD**: 11 Jun, Grant P (DFS); 9 Jun, downtown Chi (EW). **Other**(overwintered?): 19 Mar, Massac Co (FB).

Northern Mockingbird
EA: 6 Apr (increase), Sgmn Co (HDB); 22 Apr, Montrose (GW); 25 Apr, JP (KC). **MC**: 9, Sgmn Co, 19 May (HDB); 8, Massac Co, 5 Apr (KM); 7, Kankakee Co, 8 Apr (DFS). **LD**: 11 May, Grant P (DFS). **Other** (north): 16-24 May, Skokie (Cook Co) (EW, JE).

Brown Thrasher
EA: **4 Mar** (2), Massac Co (FB) — second earliest IL arrival date; 23 Mar (male), Sang.L (HDB); 24 Mar, Bismarck (Vermilion Co) (RC); 6 Apr, JP (BH, PC). **MC**: 20, Urbana, 11 Apr (RC); 17, Massac Co, 5 Apr (KM); 16, JP, 24 Apr (PC, KC); 15, Sgmn Co, 11 Apr (HDB). **LD**: 9 Jun, downtown Chi (EW); 4 Jun, Grant P (DFS).

European Starling
EA: 14 Mar (49 migrants), JP (PC). **MC**: **10,000**, Carl.C, 24 Mar (DK) — highest spring-season count, suggesting late dissolution of winter roosts; 3000, LCal, 10-11 Mar (WM); 850, Kendall Co, 25 Mar (DFS); 705, Evanston, 7 Apr (EW). **LD**: 6 Apr (9 — the last discerned migrants of the season), JP (PC). Notably tardy arrival and early departure at JP (PC).

American Pipit (1st passage)
EA: **22 Feb** (5), s Clinton Co (KM) — second earliest IL arrival date; 13 Mar, Sang.L (HDB). **MC**: **150**, Carl.C, 18 Mar (DK); 40, Carl.C, 10 Mar (DK); 10, Sgmn Co, 1 Apr (HDB). **LD**: 8 Apr (2), Evanston (EW).

American Pipit (2nd passage)
EA: 13 Apr (14), Heyworth (McLean Co) (MR, RF); 21 Apr (3), CypCrk (FB); 26 Apr (2), Montrose (GW). **MC**: **150**, Carl.C, 6 May (DK); **80**, Hennepin L, 19 Apr (DFS) — record high count for n IL; 32, Carl.C, 29 Apr (KM); 5, one mile nw of Vermont (McDonough Co), 5 May (LLH). **LD**: 20 May, JP (PC); 14 May, Carl.C (KM); 1 May, L Spfld (HDB).

Cedar Waxwing (1st passage)
EA: **6 Jan**, Sgmn Co (HDB) — ties for second earliest IL arrival; 7 Feb, JP (PC); 24 Feb, McDonough Co (KM, IOS). **MC**: 265, Palos, 24 Mar (WS); 100+ (one flock), Boone Co, 1 Apr (AB); 23, Sgmn Co, 8 Mar (HDB); 20, Carl.C, 17 Mar (DK). **LD**: 8 Apr (8), Evanston (EW); 12 Mar (7), Sgmn Co (HDB).

Cedar Waxwing (2nd passage)
EA: **12 Apr** (3), OFallon (St. Clair Co) (KM) — while data are limited, this appears to be the **earliest puhlished seeond passage arrival date** by five days; 21 Apr (9), Massac Co (FB); 26 Apr (6), JP (PC, BH); 1 May (13), Sgmn Co (HDB). **MC**: 73, Evanston, 15 May (EW, JE); 63, JP, 15 May (SC, PC); 51, Sgmn Co, 23 May (HDB); 30, Carl.C, 19-20 May (DK). **LD**: 15 Jun (2), Grant P (DFS); 30 May (22), Sgmn Co (HDB). Extremely poor numbers — the lowest high counts since 1990.

Blue-winged Warbler
EA: **9 Apr**, Massac Co (FB) — **reeord early IL arrival** hy one day; 13 Apr, Cardondale (Jackson Co) (RSM); 22 Apr (2 males), Spfld (HDB); 24-25 Apr (male), JP (BH, PC). **MC**: 14, Hoffman Estates and Barrington Hills (Cook Co), 5 May (AA); 10 (breeding population), Lowden-Miller SF (Ogle Co), 17 May (DFS); 9, Pomona & Union Co, 13 Apr (KM); 8, ec Knox Co, 5 May (KR). **LD**: 19 May, Carl.C (DK, IOS); 10 May, Grant P (TS); 30 Apr (male), Sgmn Co (HDB).

Brewsters Warbler
Two reports. **EA**: 30 Apr (first generation male), Anglers P, Bloomington (McLean Co) (MR, WCH). **LD**: 8 May (singing Golden-winged song), Urhana (RC).

Golden-winged Warhler
EA: 25 Apr, Pomona (KM); 27 Apr (male), Columbus P, Chi (AA); 27 Apr (male), Carp.P (HDB). **MC**: 5, ec Knox Co, 5 May (KR); 4, JP, 11 May (PC, SC). **LD**: 15 May (2 females), Wash.P (HDB); 15 May, Montrose (GW); 5 May, Mermet L (FB); 5 May, Carl.C (DK). A rather weak passage.

Lawrenees Warhler
Two reports. **EA**: 30 Apr (male, variant lacking hlack throat patch), Ewing P (MR). **LD**: 5 May, Henderson Co (*CL).

Tennessee Warbler
EA: **13 Apr**, Heron Pond (Johnson Co) (KM) — **reeord early IL arrival** by one day; **15 Apr**, Pomona (RSM); 22 Apr, Urbana (RC); 30 Apr (3), JP (PC, BH). **MC**: 190, ne IL (95 at Swallow Cliffs FP, Palos and 85 at M.Arb), 9 May (DFS); 150, Urbana, 10 May & 11 May (RC); 115, Mahomet (Champaign Co), 5 May (RC, GL); 46, Sgmn Co, 12 May (HDB); 40, Carl.C, 12 May (DK). **LD**: 29 May (2 females), Adams Sanctuary, Spfld (HDB); 28 May, Urbana (RC); 28 May (2), Bemis Wds FP (we Cook Co) (DFS); 22 May, Madison Co (KM).

Orange-crowned Warbler
EA: **6 Apr** (ad.), Wash.P (HDB) — second earliest for c IL; **8 Apr**, JP (KC, JSR) — third earliest for n IL; 8 Apr (2), Sielbecks tract near Mermet L (FB); 12 Apr, JP (PC); 20 Apr (2), Urbana (RC). **MC**: 4, Sgmn Co, 23 Apr (HDB); 3, JP, 25 Apr (PC, BH) & 30 Apr (PC); 3, LCal, 3 May (DFS); 2, Massac Co, 8 Apr (FB). **LD**: 15 May (male), JP (SC); 13 May, Lincoln Memorial Garden near Spfld (HDB); 22 Apr, Fort Massac SP (Massac Co) (KM).

Nashville Warbler
EA: **7 Apr**, Grassy L (Union Co) (KM) — **reeord early arrival by six days**; **12 Apr** (male), L Spfld (HDB) — record early for c IL and **seeond earliest IL arrival**; 15 Apr, Fort Massac SP (Massac Co) (FB); 22 Apr, JP (SC). **MC**: 23, Evanston, 5 May (EW, TB); 20, Urbana, 27 Apr (RC); 8, Clinton Co, 1 May (KM). **LD**: 7 Jun, Grant P (DFS); 30 May (male), Oak R (Sgmn Co) (HDB); 14 May, Carl.C (KM). Poor numbers; extraordinarily lowat Grant P (DFS).

Ring-necked Duck. Bunn Park Golf Course. Springfield, IL. 15 May 2001. Still present as of 8 July 2001. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Northern Parula
EA: **4 Apr**, Mermet L (KM); **6 Apr**, Urbana (RC); 7 Apr, Massac Co (FB); **8-9 Apr** (male), JP (JSR, PC, SC:ph.) — third earliest for n IL; 8 Apr (3), Pomona (RSM); 9 Apr (2 males), Sgmn Co (HDB). **MC**: 14, Union Co, 13 Apr (KM); 5, n Fayette Co, 13 Apr (MAH); 5, Sgmn Co, 27 Apr & 12 May (HDB); 2, JP, 30 Apr (PC, SF) & 2 May (PC). **LD**: 6 Jun, Lowden-Miller SF (Ogle Co) (DFS); 23 May (male), JP (PC).

Yellow Warbler
EA: **13 Apr**, Carl.C (DK); 19 Apr (male), JP (JC); 21 Apr, Kickapoo SP (Vermilion Co) (RC). **MC**: **62**, Hoffman Estates (Cook Co), 5 May (AA); 38 (breeding population), LCal, 3 May (DFS); 34, Carl.C, 5 May (DK); 8, Sgmn Co, 13 May (HDB). **LD**: 10 Jun (4), JP (PC); 7 Jun, Grant P (DFS); 16 May, Urhana (RC).

Chestnut-sided Warhler
EA: **22 Apr**, Urbana (RC) — **reeord early for e IL**, and **seeond earliest for state**; 25 Apr, Atwood Ridge (Union Co) (KM); 27 Apr, Knox College (MB); 1 May (male), JP (SF, PC). **MC**: **55**, Urbana, 13 May (RC) — **reeord high eount** excluding SBC data; 18 (breeding population), Lowden-Miller SF (Ogle Co), 17 May (DFS); 16, JP, 11 May (PC, WS); 16, Sgmn Co, 11 & 12 May (HDB); 4, Carl.C, 12 May (DK). **LD**: 1 Jun, Urbana (RC); 1 Jun (male), JP (PC); 12 May (4), Carl.C (DK).

Magnolia Warbler
EA: 25 Apr, Pomona (KM); 30 Apr, Urhana (RC); 1 May (4 males), JP (BH, SC). **MC**: 45, Grant P, 11 May (DFS); 25, Urhana, 12 May (RC); 19, JP, 16 May (PC, KC); 15, Sgmn Co, 12 May (HDB); 4, Carl.C, 19 May (DK, IOS). **LD**: into Jun, Sgmn Co (HDB); 7 Jun (2), Foley Pond, Highland P (Lake Co) (DRD); 5 Jun (young male), Grant P (DFS); 2 Jun, Urbana (RC); 27 May, Carl.C (DK).

Cape May Warbler
EA: **22 Apr**, Urbana (EC) — third earliest IL arrival; 30 Apr (male), JP (PC, BH); 30 Apr (male), Spruce (Sgmn Co) (HDB); 1 May, OFallon (St. Clair Co) (KM). **MC**: 13, Swallow Cliffs FP, Palos, 9 May (DFS); 10, Sgmn Co, 12 May (HDB); 4, Carl.C, 9 May (KM). **LD**: **15 Jun** (female), Grant P (DFS) — **latest published IL departure by nine days**; 29 May (female), Grant P (DFS); 22 May (male), L Spfld (HDB); 14 May, Carl.C (KM).

Blaek-throated Blue Warhler
EA: 30 Apr, Urbana (RC); 1 May (male), JP (BH, PC); 2 May (male), Maple Grove FP (Du Page Co) (UG); 5 May, Jasper Co (*JW et al.) — the only report from s IL. **MC**: 2, various sites in c and n IL, 2-19 May. **LD**: **10-14 Jun** (male, singing like a Golden-winged), University of IL at Chicago Medical Center (Cook Co) (CF, DFS) — second latest on record; 4 Jun (female), Grant P (DFS); 31 May (male), JP (PC); 30 May (female), Grant P (TS); 19 May (2 males), Carp.P (HDB).

Yellow-rumped Warbler
EA: 24 Mar (2), Urbana (RC); 5 Apr (2), Argonne National Laboratory (se Du Page Co) (UG); 5 Apr, Sgmn Co (HDB); 6 Apr (6), JP (PC, BH). **MC**: 175, n of Spoon L (Knox Co), 27 Apr (MB); 156, LCal, 3 May (DFS); 100+, Urhana, 11 Apr & 22 Apr (RC); 90, Massac Co, 8 Apr (KM). **LD**: 24 May (female), Grant P (DFS); 24 May, Montrose (GW); 17 May (2), L Spfld (HDB); 17 May, Urhana (RC); 14 May (5), Carl.C (KM).

Black-throated Green Warbler
EA: 5 Apr, Fort Massac SP (Massac Co) (KM); **6 Apr** (male), Wash.P (HDB) — record early for c IL; **13 Apr** (singing), Eggers Wds (LCal) (DFS) — second earliest for n IL; 21 Apr (2 males), JP (PC, KC); 21 Apr (2), Massac Co (FB). **MC**: 20, Urhana, 13 May (RC); 10, JP, 10 May (PC, BH); 8, Kankakee Co, 12 May (DFS); 7, Atwood Ridge (Union Co), 25 Apr (KM). **LD**: 29 May (male), JP (KC); 27 May, Chinquapin Bluffs Psv (Woodford Co) (TEB fide MF); 9 May, Carl.C (KM).

Blaekburnian Warbler
EA: 22 Apr, Massac Co (FB); 26 Apr (male), Sgmn Co (HDB); 28 Apr, Elizabeth A. Conkey FP (s Cook Co) (CA). **MC**: **30**, Urhana, 12 May (RC) — **reeord spring high eount**; 7, Kankakee Co, 12 May (DFS); 2, Clinton Co, 5 May (KM). **LD**: 7 Jun (female), Grant P (DFS); 3 Jun (singing male), Rainbow Beach, Chi (DFS); 28 May, Urhana (RC); 19 May, Carl.C (DK, IOS).

Yellow-throated Warbler
EA: 4 Apr, Fort Massac SP (Massac Co) (KM); 7 Apr, Carp.P (HDB); **8 Apr**, I & M Canal (**La Salle Co**) (DJS) — second earliest for n IL; 8 Apr (3), Carl.C (DK); 11 Apr (2), Urbana (RC); 13 Apr (2), I & M Canal (La Salle Co) (DJS). **MC**: 11, Jackson Co, 13 Apr (KM); 6, n Fayette Co, 13 Apr (MAH); 3, M.Arh, 5 May (JC); 2, Sgmn Co, 25 Apr (HDB). **LD**: 13 May, M.Arb (UG); 5 May, Pike Co (*JF). **Others** (north): 22 Apr, M.Arb (UG); 30 Apr (male), JP (SC, PC); 2 May, JP (KEH); 5 May, Winnebago Co (*MK).

Pine Warbler
EA: 3 Mar, Pomona (KM); 4 Mar (2), L Glendale (Pope Co) (FB); **19-20 Mar**, Rockford (DTW) — second earliest datefor n IL; 3 Apr, Ron Beese P, Barrington (Cook Co) (DRD); 11 Apr, Urhana (RC); 14 Apr (male), Carp.P (HDB). **MC**: 5, Pomona, 1 Apr (KM); 5, JP, 27 Apr (BH); 2, Sgmn Co, 21-24 Apr (HDB); local record season total of 13 sightings at Sgmn Co (HDB). **LD**: 13 May, Urhana (RC); 5 May, Grant P (TS).

Prairie Warbler
EA: 10 Apr (2), Heron Pond (Johnson Co) (KM); 14 Apr (male), Sang.L (HDB); 15 Apr, Urbana (RC); 22 Apr (male), JP (PC). **MC**: 5, Heron Pond (Johnson Co), 17 Apr (KM). **LD**: 7 May, Evanston (EW); 5 May, Du Page Co (*WH); 30 Apr, Spfld (HDB); 30 Apr, Ewing P (WCH); 30 Apr (male), JP (PC, m.ob.).

Palm Warbler
EA: **6 Apr**, Massac Co (FB); 8 Apr, Mermet L (KM); 13 Apr, Eggers Wds (LCal) (DFS); 14 Apr, Urbana (RC). **MC**: 108, LCal, 3 May (DFS); 100+, LShel, 28 Apr (RC); 62, Des Plaines R (Cook Co), 5 May (AA); 15, Carl.C, 5 May (DK). **LD**: 29 May, Grant P (DFS); 20 May, East St. Louis (St. Clair Co) (KM, IOS); 13 May (3), L Spfld (HDB). **Other**: **Yellow Palm Warbler**: 4 May, Sang.L. — third IL record of this e subspecies, pending IORC review.

Bay-breasted Warbler
EA: 25 Apr, Massac Co (FB); 27 Apr (male), Adams Sanctuary, Spfld (HDB); 30 Apr (male), JP (PC, KC). **MC**: 20, Urbana, 13 May (RC); 12+, JP, 16 May (PC); 2, Carl.C, 9 May (KM). **LD**: 28 May, Urbana (RC); 28 May (male), Bemis Wds FP (we Cook Co) (DFS); 19 May (2), Carl.C (DK, IOS).

Blackpoll Warbler
EA: 23 Apr, Grassy L (Union Co) (KM); 26 Apr, Urbana (RC); 29 Apr (2 males), JP (PC, BH). **MC**: 45, Urbana, 11 May (RC); 25, Carl.C, 12 May (DK); 23, Sgmn Co, 13 May (HDB); 17, Macoupin Co, 7 May (DFS); 9, JP, 16 May (PC, KC). **LD**: 8 Jun (female), JP (KC); 1 Jun, Urbana (RC); 27 May, Carl.C (DK).

Cerulean Warbler
EA: 10 Apr (2), Pomona (KM); 15 Apr (2), Fort Massac SP (Massac Co) (FB); **23 Apr (female)**, JP (PC, SC) — third earliest for n IL; **24 Apr**, Axehead L FP, Des Plaines (Cook Co) (AA); 27 Apr, Knox College (MB); 28 Apr, Fishhk (RC). **MC**: 8, Pomona, 25 Apr (KM); 3, Knox College, 4 May (MB); 3, McLean Co, 5 May (MR, MF et al.); 3, Chinquapin Bluffs Psv (Woodford Co), 16 May (BD fide MF). **LD**: 19 May, IBSP (AS); 12 May (male), Carp.P (HDB). **Other** (breeding?): 28 May, Pratts Wayne Wds FP (Du Page Co) (UG).

Black-and-white Warbler
EA: **30 Mar**, Mermet L (FB); **7 Apr**, Ewing P (MH); 8 Apr (2), Carl.C (DK); 20 Apr (2), JP (BH, PC). **MC**: 26, Grant P, 11 May (DFS); 20, Urbana, 11 May (RC); 16, JP, 11 May (PC); 3, Pomona, 25 Apr (KM). **LD**: 15 Jun (female), Grant P (DFS); 4 Jun (female), Grant P (DFS); 28 May (female), Spfld (HDB); 9 May, Carl.C (KM). **Other**, 27 May (breeding?), Carl.C (DK).

American Redstart
EA: **13 Apr**, Pomona (KM) — **record early IL arrival** by three days; 25 Apr (male), Adams Sanctuary, Spfld (HDB); 30 Apr, Urbana (RC); 1 May (3 males), JP (SF, PC). **MC**: 47 (mostly breeders), Bureau Co, 5 May (DFS); 25, Urbana, 11 May (RC); 25 (second wave), Urbana, 28 May (RC); 17, Clinton Co, 5 May (KM). **LD**: 15 Jun (first-spring male), Grant P (DFS); 9 Jun, downtown Chi (EW); into Jun, Sgmn Co (HDB); 2 Jun (5), Urbana (RC). Terrible numbers at JP (PC).

Prothonotary Warbler
EA: **8 Apr**, Heron Pond (Johnson Co) (KM); **8 Apr**, Mermet L (FB); 10 Apr, Cardondale (Jackson Co) (RSM); 20 Apr (male), Wash.P (HDB); 22 Apr, Hidden Creek P, Normal (McLean Co) (DB); 29 Apr (male), JP (TVB); 30 Apr, McHenry Dam (McHenry Co) (DF). **MC**: 25, Union Co, 21 Apr (KM); 4, Carl.F, 19 May (DK, IOS); 3, Sgmn Co, 3 May (HDB); 3, Burr Ridge (Du Page Co), 8 May (UG). **LD**: 28 May, Urbana (RC), 13 May, Ryerson Wds CA (Lake Co) (SH). **Others**: At least 14 territorial songs, Chau, 11 May (R&SBj).

Worm-eating Warbler
EA: **8 Apr**, Beall Wds NPsv & SP (Wabash Co) (LH) — second earliest IL arrival; **10 Apr** (2), Pomona (KM) — third earliest IL arrival; 20 Apr, JP (DES, PC); 21 Apr, Kickapoo SP (Vermilion Co) (RC). **MC**: 12, Union Co, 23 Apr (KM); 2, Urbana, 26 Apr (RC). **LD**: 29 May, Bemis Wds FP (we Cook Co) (DFS); 11 May, JP (RLS, SC); 10 May, Urbana (RC). More records than usual at JP (PC) and at McLean Co (MR).

Ovenbird
EA: **15 Apr**, Fort Massac SP (Massac Co) (FB); 21 Apr, Union Co (KM); 22 Apr, Moraine View SP (McLean Co) (RF); 22 Apr, Urbana (EC, RC); 22 Apr (male), Wash.P (HDB); 23 Apr (2), JP (PC, SF). **MC**: **63**, Grant P, 11 May (DFS); 37, Urbana, 13 May (RC); 27, JP, 11 May (PC); singles only in s IL. **LD**: 15 Jun (singing male), Grant P (DFS); 6 Jun, downtown Chi (KW, EW); 28 May, Urbana (RC); 14 May, Carl.C (KM).

Northern Waterthrush
EA: **8 Apr**, Mermet L (FB) — second earliest IL arrival date, and earliest for s IL; **12 Apr**, Moraine View SP (McLean Co) (RF); 20 Apr, JP (SF, PC). **MC**: 23, LCal, 3 May (DFS); 20, Urbana, 9 May (RC); 16, JP, 5 May (SC, PC); 5, Clinton Co, 5 May (KM). **LD**: 1 Jun, JP (PC); 28 May, Urbana (RC).

Louisiana Waterthrush
EA: 29 Mar, Union Co (KM); 30 Mar, Massac Co (FB); 5 Apr (male), Sang.L (HDB); 6 Apr (male), Knox College (MB); 15 Apr, IBSP (AS). **MC**: 12, Jackson Co, 7 Apr (KM). **LD**: 10 May (2), Urbana (RC); 2 May, Columbus P, Chi (AA).

Kentucky Warbler
EA: 13 Apr (2), Pomona (KM); 15 Apr, Fort Massac SP (Massac Co) (FB); 23 Apr (2 males), Adams Sanctuary, Spfld (HDB); 27 Apr (male), JP (DES, PC); 27 Apr, Knox College (MB); 27 Apr, Urbana (RC). **MC**: 14, Jackson Co, 27 Apr (KM), 6 (on territory), Knox College, 30 Apr (MB); 3, Sgmn Co, 30 Apr (HDB); 3 (males), JP, 1 May (PC, BH) — record high count for site; 2, Swallow Cliffs FP, Palos, 2 May (DFS). **LD**: 28 May (2), Urbana. **Other** (breeding?): 30 May, Sandy Creek Bluffs (Marshall Co) (TL). Widely reported.

Connecticut Warbler
EA: **8 May**, Urbana (RC); 15 May (male), JP (PC); 16 May, Half Day Wds FP (Lake Co) (SH). 16 May, Linc.P (GW); 19 May (male), Carp.P (HDB). **MC**: 5, Urbana, 28 May (RC); 2 (males), JP, 20 May (PC); season total of 12 individuals in vicinity of Champaign Co (RC). **LD**: 6 Jun, JP (PC); 30 May, Grant P (DFS); 25 May, Dirksen P (Tazewell Co) (TL); 24 May (male), Wash.P (HDB); 20 May (singing male), Olm NPsv (Jersey Co) (WR).

Mourning Warbler
EA: 5 May, Funks Grove (McLean Co) (DB et al.); 8 May, Urbana (RC); 10 May, Grant P (DFS); 11 May, Evanston (EW). **MC**: 5, Carl.C, 19 May (DK, IOS); 4 (breeders?), Lowden-Miller SF (Ogle Co), 17 May (DFS); 3, Ewing P, 18 May (MR); 3, Urbana, 28 May (RC). **LD**: 8 Jun, Eggers Wds FP, LCal (DFS); 6 Jun (2 males), JP (PC); 31 May (female), Wash.P (HDB); 27 May, Massac Co (FB). Low numbers at most sites.

Common Yellowthroat
EA: **8 Apr** (4), Heron Pond (Johnson Co) (KM); **8 Apr** (2), Sielbecks tract near Mermet L (FB); **13 Apr**, Moraine View SP (McLean Co) (MR, RF) — record early for e IL; 16 Apr, Linc.P (GW); 21 Apr (male), JP (SF). **MC**: 59, Grant P, 11 May (DFS); 29, Mahomet (Champaign Co), 5 May (RC); 26, McDonough Co, 5 May (LLH); 25, Clinton Co, 5 May (KM). **LD**: 15 Jun, Grant P (DFS); 6 Jun, downtown Chi (KW, EW).

Hooded Warbler
EA: 10 Apr, Atwood Ridge (Union Co) (KM); **11 Apr (female)**, Urbana (RC) — record early for e IL; 16 Apr (male), Lick Creek (Sgmn Co) (HDB); 23 Apr (male), Argonne National Laboratory (se Du Page Co) (UG); 23 Apr (male), JP (SC). **MC**: 4, Jackson Co, 21 Apr (KM); 3 (males), Ewing P, 4 May (MR, GH); 3 (males), JP, 12 May (JD, PC). **LD**: 30 May - 2 Jun (singing male), JP (PC, m.ob.); 27 May(male), Carp.P (HDB); 27 May (netted), Urbana (AR fide RC); 26 May, Herrick L FP (Du Page Co) (UG).

Wilsons Warbler
EA: 26 Apr (2), JP (BH, PC); 26 Apr (2), Urbana (RC); 2 May, Ewing P (DB); 6 May, Fort Massac SP (Massac Co) (FB). **MC**: 24, Grant P, 15 May (DFS); 15+, Ewing P, 19 May (MR); 13, JP, 16 May (PC, KC); 9, Urbana, 13 May (RC). **LD**: 7 Jun (3), Foley Pond, Highland P (Lake Co) (DRD); 5 Jun (2), Grant P (DFS); 1 Jun, Urbana (RC); 28 May (male), Carp.P (HDB); 21 May, Carl.C (KM).

Canada Warbler
EA: **28 Apr** (male), JP (*PC) — fourth April record for IL; 2 May, Urbana (RC); 4 May, Massac Co (FB); 5 May, Wildwood Nature Center, Park Ridge (Cook Co) (AA). **MC**: 3, Grant P, 22 May (DFS); 3, Sgmn Co, 27 May (HDB); 2, Carl.C, 21 May (KM). **LD**: 7 Jun (2), Foley Pond, Highland P (Lake Co) (DRD); 7 Jun (male), Grant P (DFS); 29 May (female), Lincoln Memorial Garden near Spfld (HDB); 28 May (female), Barden Falls (Pope Co) (MR, JS). Poor numbers statewide.

Yellow-breasted Chat
EA: **13 Apr** (4), Union Co (KM); **13 Apr** (2) Johnson Co (FB) — second earliest IL arrival date; **24 Apr**, Boone Co (AB); 26 Apr, Urbana (RC); 28 Apr, JP (RLS, RDM). **MC**: 9, ec Knox Co, 5 May (KR); 6 (breeding population), Bureau Co, 5 May (DFS); 6, Mahomet (Champaign Co), 5 May (RC, GL); 5, Carl.C, 21 May (KM). **LD**: 19 May, Grant P (TS). Good numbers noted in e and n IL.

Henslow's Sparrow. Montrose, Chicago, Cook County. 2 May 2001. Photo by Kanae Hirabayashi.

Summer Tanager
EA: 16 Apr, Heron Pond (Johnson Co) (KM); 23 Apr (male), Wash.P (HDB); 25 Apr, Linc.P (GW); 26 Apr (male found dead), McCormick Place (Chi) (DEW fide DFS). **MC**:6, Atwood Ridge (Union Co), 25 Apr (KM); 5+, Pere Marquette SP (Jersey Co), 19-20 May (UG); 2 (males), Swallow Cliffs FP, Palos, 3 May (WS); 2, Sgmn Co, 19 May (HDB). **LD**: 19 May (female), Grant P (TS). Exceptionally few reports from north.

Scarlet Tanager
EA: **10 Apr**, Atwood Ridge (Union Co) (KM) — **record early IL arrival** by two days; 14 Apr, Pomona (RSM); 22 Apr (male, female), Adams Sanctuary, Spfld (HDB); 25 Apr (male), JP (DES, MS). **MC**: 18, Swallow Cliffs FP, Palos, 9 May (DFS); 12, Sgmn Co, 5 May (HDB); 9, Clinton Co, 5 May (KM). **LD**: 27 May, Bloomington (McLean Co) (RC); 22 May (male), JP (PC).

Eastern Towhee
EA: 10 Mar, Carl.C (DK); 12 Mar (male), n of New City (Sgmn Co) (HDB); 26 Mar (male), Calumet P (LCal) (DFS). **MC**: 22, Carl.C, 21 Apr (DK); 22, Mahomet (Champaign Co), 5 May (RC); 10, Sgmn Co, 22 Apr (HDB); 8, JP, 20 Apr (SC, PC). **LD**: **8 Jun** (female), JP (KC) — **record late migrant date for IL**; 31 May (male), Grant P (DFS).

American Tree Sparrow
EA: 9 Feb (17), JP (PC). **MC**: 60, Sgmn Co, 3 Mar (HDB); 33, Putnam Co, 22 Mar (DFS); 20, Carl.C, 10 Mar (DK); 15, Pr.Rdg, 24 Mar (KM). **LD**: 5 May, Macon Co (*JA); 5 May, JP (*PC); 1 Apr (3), Union Co (KM).

Chipping Sparrow
EA: 25 Mar (at feeder), Massac Co (FB); 29 Mar, Union Co (KM); 3 Apr, Urbana (RC); 5 Apr (2), Rockford (DTW); 6 Apr, Downers Grove (Du Page Co) (UG); 6 Apr (2), JP (PC, KC). **MC**: **92**, Mahomet (Champaign Co), 5 May (RC); 40, Carl.C, 21 Apr (DK); 33, JP, 29 Apr (PC, BH). **LD**: 13 May, JP (PC).

Clay-colored Sparrow
EA: 25 Apr, Linc.P (GW); 25, Apr, JP (SC, PC); 25 Apr, Sang.L (HDB); 26 Apr, Mayview (Champaign Co) (RC). **MC**: 5, Grant P, 5 May (TS); 4, Grant P, 11 May (DFS); 3, Grant P, 10 May (DFS); 3, JP, 11 May (PC). **LD**: 17 May, JP (PC); 15 May (2), Grant P (DFS); 13 May, L Spfld (HDB); 10 May, Urbana (RC). No reports from s, and few from c, but respectable numbers in n IL.

Field Sparrow
EA: 1 Mar (5), Massac Co (FB); 3 Mar (winter residents?), Buckhart (Sgmn Co) (HDB); 19 Mar, Westchester (Cook Co) (DFS); 22 Mar, Bull Valley (McHenry Co) (DF). **MC**: 38, Hoffman Estates (Cook Co), 5 May (AA); 33, se Kankakee Co, 8 Apr (DFS); 20, Carl.C, 13 Apr (DK); 20, Sgmn Co, 14 Apr (HDB). **LD**: 16 May, Skokie (Cook Co) (EW, JE); 31 Mar, LShel (RC).

Vesper Sparrow
EA: 24 Mar (2), Pulaski Co (FB); 28 Mar (2), n Vermilion Co (DFS); 30 Mar, n of New City (Sgmn Co) (HDB); 7 Apr, Argonne National Laboratory (se Du Page Co) (UG). **MC**: 5, Kankakee Co, 8 Apr (DFS); 4, Sgmn Co, 19 Apr (HDB). **LD**: 25 Apr, Carl.F (KM); 20 Apr (2), Humboldt P, Chi (AA). Poor numbers, and unreported from many sites.

Lark Sparrow
EA: 22 Apr, Navy Pier, Chi (EW, KW); 24 Apr (3), Buckhart (Sgmn Co) (HDB); 26 Apr, Little Swan L (Warren Co) (LLH); 29 Apr, Carl.F (KM, DK). **MC**: 5, McDonough Co, 5 May (LLH); 4, Sgmn Co, 30 May (HDB); 3, e of Winchester

(Scott Co), 18 May (UG); 3, Rockton (Winnebago Co), 23 May (DTW). **Others** (central): 1-3 pr through May, Chinquapin Bluffs Psv (Woodford Co), where not known to nest (MF); 12 May, Fulton Co (KM).

Savannah Sparrow
EA: **9 Feb**, JP (PC) — local record early, and among the earliest migrant records for IL; 11 Mar, Berry (Sgmn Co) (HDB); 31 Mar, Savoy (Champaign Co) (RC); 6 Apr (6), JP (PC, BH). **MC**: 50, Road on Levee (Monroe Co), 1.: 19 Apr, ite-crowned Sparrow 1 Mar (JPZ); 47, Evanston, 15 May (EW, JE); 26, Grant P, 1 May (DFS); 18, Victoria (Knox Co), 5 May (KR); 15, Sgmn Co, 8 Apr (HDB). **LD**: 4 Jun, Grant P (DFS); 29 May, Sang.L (HDB); 20 May, Carl.F (DK, IOS).

Grasshopper Sparrow
EA: 10 Apr, Sang.L (HDB); 14 Apr (4 singing), Robert Ridgway Grasslands near Pr.Rdg (MAH); 24 Apr, JP (PC, BH). **MC**: **44**, Urbana, 4 May (RC) — **record single-observer high count**; 8, Clinton Co, 5 May (KM); 7, Nelson L Marsh (Kane Co), 18 May (RR, NB). **LD**: 2 Jun (found dead), McCormick Place (Chi) (MHn fide DFS); 15 May, Grant P (TS).

Henslows Sparrow
EA: 10 Apr, Sang.L (HDB); 10 Apr, Pulaski Co (KM); 14 Apr (2), Clin.L (RC); 28 Apr, John J. Duffy FP, Palos (CA). **MC**: 9, Goose L Prairie SP (Grundy Co), 14 May (JC); 7, CypCrk, 21 Apr (FB); 5, Pulaski Co, 22 Apr (KM); 5, Distillery CA (Boone Co), 9 May - end of period (DTW). **LD**: 1 May, Grant P (DFS). **Others**: 1, Montrose, Cook Co, 2 May (KH). Rather few reports.

Le Contes Sparrow
EA: 17 Mar (2), Nipper Wildlife Area (Sgmn Co) (HDB); 4 Apr, Clin.L (RC); 14 Apr, Montrose (WS, GW); 14 Apr, Shaws Wetland n of Wataga (Knox Co) (LA, KR); 19 Apr, Hennepin L (DFS). **MC**: 2, Sgmn Co, three dates (HDB). **LD**: 11 May (2), Grant P (DFS); 2 Apr, Herrin (Williamson Co) (LS); 17 Mar, Carl.C (DK). Scarcer than usual; only three reported from Chicago lakefront parks, but see photo 2 May (1) Montrose, Cook Co (KH)..

Nelsons Sharp-tailed Sparrow
All reports: **EA**: **10 May**, Montrose (WS); **10-11 May** (2), Grant P (TS, DFS) — record early arrivals for n IL, and **earliest non-SBC date for state**; **12 May**, Mahomet (Champaign Co) (RC); **14 May**, JP (SC). **MC**: 3, Pr.Rdg, 13 May (LH) — the only report from s IL. **LD**: 30 May, JP (PC). **Other**: **5 May**, Brown Co — **record early IL arrival**, pending IORC review; Bohlens (1989) *Birds of Illinois* notes that SBC data are ...probably worthless because of identification problems. Other SBC documentations, e.g. 7 May 1994 at Decatur, may also merit IORC review.

Fox Sparrow
EA: 26 Feb, Sgmn Co (HDB); 1 Mar (2), Rockford (DTW); 3 Mar, Hidden L FP (Du Page Co) (UG); 3 Mar, UCCA (KM). **MC**: 61, Grant P, 6 Apr (DFS); 55, JP, 5 Apr (PC); 25, Urbana, 25 Mar (RC); 16, Carl.C, 25 Mar (DK). **LD**: 5 May, Will Co (*MO); 29 Apr, JP (PC); 15 Apr, Sang.L (HDB); 8 Apr, Heron Pond (Johnson Co) (KM).

Song Sparrow
EA: **9 Feb**, JP (PC) — record early date for identified migrant; 11 Mar (5), JP (PC et al.); 11 Mar (increase), Sgmn Co (HDB). **MC**: 156, Grant P, 6 Apr (DFS); 67, JP, 5 Apr (PC); 45, Sgmn Co, 17 Mar (HDB); 24, Carl.C, 14 May (KM). **LD**: 27 May (at feeder half a mile from nearest territories), Westchester (Cook Co) (DFS); 24 May, Grant P (DFS); 16 May, JP (KC); 2 Apr (decrease), Sgmn Co (HDB).

Lincolns Sparrow
EA: 15 Apr, Sang.L (HDB); 17 Apr, Mermet L (KM); 23 Apr, IBSP (DRD); 23 Apr (2), JP (PC, SF). **MC**: **54**, Grant P, 11 May (DFS); 7, JP, 30 Apr (PC, SC); 3, Sgmn Co, 3 & 9 May (HDB); 2, Clinton Co, 5 May (KM). **LD**: 5 Jun, Grant P (DFS); 19 May, Ewing P (MR); 14 May, Carl.C (KM). Disturbingly low numbers at most sites.

Swamp Sparrow
EA: 22 Mar (9), Sgmn Co (HDB); 6 Apr, JP (PC); 8 Apr (3), M.Arb (UG). **MC**: 100+, Clin.L, 14 Apr (RC); 60, Oakwood Btms (Jackson Co), 13 Apr (KM); 45, Grant P, 1 May (DFS). **LD**: **6 Jun**, downtown Chi (EW, KW) — ties for second latest IL record; 22 May, Grant P (DFS); 11 May (2), Sang.L (HDB); 5 May (5), Clinton Co (KM); 5 May (5), Mermet L (FB).

White-throated Sparrow
EA: **21 Mar** (early migrant), Linc.P (GW); 25 Mar (12), Sgmn Co (HDB); 9 Apr (individual in area where it did not winter), Grant P (DFS); 9 Apr (4), JP (PC et al.). **MC**: 155, Grant P, 1 May (DFS); 114, Evanston, 5 May (EW, TB); 97, JP, 23 Apr (PC); 71, Massac Co, 22 Apr (KM); 41, Sgmn Co, 22 Apr (HDB). **LD**: **9 Jun** (2), downtown Chicago (EW); 30 May, Grant P (DFS); 13 May, Urbana (RC); 6 May (2), Massac Co (FB). A very weak passage.

Harriss Sparrow
All reports: **EA**: 2 May, Urbana (EC, RC); 5 May, Jo Daviess Co (*NI); 5 May, Jo Daviess Co (*GS); 5 May, Cook Co (*SS); 5 May, Adams Co (*KV); 5 May, Will Co (*MLH). **LD**: 12 May, Boone Co (AB); 11 May, Grant P (DFS). **Others** (winter departures): 29 Mar, Sang.L (HDB); 24 & 31 Mar, Carl.F (DK).

White-crowned Sparrow
EA: 21 Apr, JP (SC, PC); 28 Apr (2), Sang.L (HDB); 30 Apr, Ewing P (MR); 1 May, McHenry Dam (McHenry Co) (DF). **MC**: 235, Grant P, 11 May (DFS); 22, Carl.F, 24 Mar (DK); 19, Sgmn Co, 5 May (HDB). **LD**: 27 May, Sang.L (HDB); 23 May, Linc.P (GW); 9 May (3), Carl.C (KM). **Gambels White-crowned Sparrow**: 19 Apr, Steppig Road (Monroe Co), 1 Mar (JPZ). Among the worst failures of the spring at JP (PC). Poor springs also reported from McLean and Sgmn Cos.

Dark-eyed Junco
MC: 250, Urbana, 6 Apr (RC); 135, Grant P, 9 Apr (DFS); 107, JP, 9 Apr (KC, PC); 90, Argonne National Laboratory (se Du Page Co), 5 Apr (UG); 77, Carl.F, 25 Mar (DK); 24, CrabOr., 4 Apr (KM). **LD**: 12-14 May (female), JP (KC, PC); 13 May, Montrose (CA); 8 May (injured?), Sgmn Co (HDB); 5 May, Madison Co (*VM); 5 May, Vermilion Co (*MFC); 22 Apr, Heron Pond (Johnson Co) (KM); 22 Apr, Carl.C (DK). **Gray-headed Junco**: 17 Apr, Sgmn Co (*HDB) — third county record. **Oregon Junco**: Three reports only, all from north: 23 Mar (female), JP (PC); 5 Apr, Argonne National Laboratory (se Du Page Co) (UG); 21 Apr (male), JP (SF).

Lapland Longspur
EA: 3 Mar, Palos (EW, m.ob.), **MC**: 200, Sgmn Co, 5, 11 & 18 Mar (HDB). **LD**: 21 Apr, MidFk (RC); 24 Mar (20), Berry (Sgmn Co) (HDB); 10 Mar (4), Santa Fe Btms (Clinton Co) (DK). Very sparsely reported.

Smiths Longspur
EA: **4 Mar** (7), Massac Co (FB); 10 Mar (2), Gifford (Champaign Co) (RC); 14 Mar, Victoria (Knox Co) (MB); 14 Mar (65), Sang.L (HDB). **MC**: 120, MidFk, 11 Apr (RC); 100, Sgmn Co, 22 Mar (HDB); 80, Victoria (Knox Co), 4-14 Apr (MB et al.); 50+ (flock), two miles ne of Little Swan L (Warren Co), 5 Apr (LLH); 20, Harwood Township (Champaign Co), 14 Apr (UG). **LD**: 22 Apr (2), near Anchor (McLean Co) (RF); 21 Apr, Shattuc Road (Clinton Co) (DK); 8 Apr (20), Sang.L (HDB). As expected, largely confined to c IL.

Snow Bunting
EA: 13 Feb (2), JP (PC, BH) — the only report received.

Northern Cardinal
MC (non-SBC data): 44, Westchester (Cook Co), 11 Apr (DFS); 40, Sgmn Co, 14 Apr (HDB); 34, Sgmn Co, 11 Mar (HDB); 39, Carl.C, 6 May (DK); 28, McNaughton P (Tazewell Co), 29 May (TL); 19, Dirksen P (Tazewell Co), 25 May (TL).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak
EA: **15 Apr** (3), Fort Massac SP (Massac Co) (FB) — **record early IL arrival** by two days; 21 Apr (male), Sang.L (HDB); 22 Apr (5), Fort Massac SP (Massac Co) (KM); **23 Apr** (3), Boone Co (AB) — record early for n IL by one day; 25 Apr, Evanston (EW). **MC**: 20, Evanston, 5 May (EW, TB); 16, Carl.C, 5 May (DK); 16, Sgmn Co, 5 May (HDB). **LD**: 6 Jun, JP (PC).

LeConte's Sparrow, Montrose, Chicago, Cook Cty. 6 May 2001. Photo by Kanae Hirabayashi.

Blue Grosbeak
EA: 17 Apr, Massac Co (KM); 18 Apr, Massac Co (FB); 28 Apr, Fishhk (RC); 3 May (male), Spoon L (Knox Co) (MB); 5 May, **Lake Co** (*JSg); 5 May, Kendall Co (*DR); 5 May, McDonough Co (*J&BP); 5 May (imm. male), Sang.L (HDB); 15 May (female), **Grant P** (TS, DFS). **MC**: 6, Franklin Co, 3 May (LS); 2, Johnson Co, 27 Apr (KM). **LD**: 24 May (male), Spoon L (Knox Co) (MB). All reports from n IL included above.

Indigo Bunting
EA: 13 Apr, Massac Co (FB); 16 Apr, Oakwood Btms (Jackson Co) (DK); 19 Apr (male), Lincoln Memorial Garden near Spfld (HDB); 27 Apr, Urbana (RC); 30 Apr (male), JP (PC, BH); 1 May (2), Argonne National Laboratory (se Du Page Co) (UG); 2 May, Lone Grove FP (Kane Co) (DJS). **MC**: 77, Bureau Co, 5 May (DFS); 62, Carl.C, 5 May (DK); 42, Sgmn Co, 19 May (HDB). **LD**: 31 May (female), Grant P (DFS).

Dickcissel
EA: 22 Apr, Fort Massac SP (Massac Co) (KM, FB); 29 Apr, Breeze (Clinton Co) (DK); 2 May (male), n of Sang.L (HDB); 5 May, Saybrook (McLean Co) (MR et al.); 10 May (male singing), Grant P (TS). **MC**: **92**, Road on Levee (Monroe Co), 15 May (JPZ); 45, Carl.C, 12 May (DK); 26, Sgmn Co, 19 May (HDB); 12, Nelson L Marsh (Kane Co), 18 May (RR, NB).

Bobolink
EA: 24-25 Apr (8), Joppa (Massac Co) (FB); 28 Apr (2), Fermi (UG); 28 Apr, John J. Duffy FP, Palos (CA); 30 Apr (5 males), w of Sang.L (HDB). **MC**: **247**, Massac Co, 5 May (FB) — **record IL high count** by seven birds; 26, Evanston, 15 May (EW, JE); 20, Massac Co, 28 Apr (KM, DK, VL); 20, Carl.C, 19-20 May (DK, IOS); 9, Sgmn Co, 5 May (HDB). **LD**: 27 May, Bloomington (McLean Co) (RC); 21 May (16), Carl.C (KM).

Red-winged Blackbird
EA: 8 Feb (2), JP (BH); 12 Feb, Sgmn Co (HDB); 17 Feb (influx), Urbana (RC); 7 Mar (4 males), JP (PC, BH). **MC**: **300,000**, Carl.C, 24 Mar (DK) — **record spring season high count for IL**; **50,000**, Sgmn Co, 24 Mar (HDB); 2000, LShel, 3 Mar (RC); 494, JP, 6 Apr (PC, BH); 465, Evanston, 7 Apr (EW). **LD**: 16 May (5 migrants), JP (PC); 28 Apr (decrease), Sgmn Co (HDB).

Eastern Meadowlark
EA: 25 Jan, Sgmn Co (HDB); 25 Feb (influx), Urbana (RC); 10 Mar (3), Springbrook Prairie FP (Du Page Co) (UG); 11 Mar, JP (KC). **MC**: 47, Road on Levee (Monroe Co), 1 Frank Holmes (fide JPZ), 12 M Mar (JPZ); 35, Massac Co, 5 Apr (KM); 33, Kankakee Co, 8 Apr (DFS); 29, Sgmn Co, 14 Apr (HDB). **LD**: 14 Apr, JP (fide KC). Almost no data received from n IL.

Western Meadowlark
EA: 11 Mar, Crittendon Township (Champaign Co) (RC); 8 Apr, Kankakee Co (DFS); 14 Apr, Kendall Co (DJS); 14 Apr, Ludlow (Champaign Co) (RC). **MC**: 4, McDonough Co, 5 May (LLH). **Others** (south): 3 May, Union Co (KM, RSM et al.); 13 May, Union Co (FB). Sparsely reported.

Yellow-headed Blackbird
EA: 8 Apr, Moraine Hills SP (McHenry Co) (DF); 22 Apr (male), Eggers Wds FP, LCal (CM); 18 May, Mattoon (Coles Co) (RC). **MC**: 7 (4 males, 3 females), Hegewisch Marsh, LCal, 25 May (CM); 5 (males), LCal, 5 May (WM); 5, Pratts Wayne Wds FP (Du Page Co), 28 May (UG). **LD**: 11 May (female), Evanston (EW).

Rusty Blackbird
EA: 28 Feb (150+), Urbana (RC); 14 Mar, Linc.P (GW). **MC**: 300, Santa Fe Btms (Clinton Co), 17 Mar (DK); 235, Union Co, 5 Apr (KM); 95, I & M Canal (Grundy Co), 1 Apr (DJS); 50, Sgmn Co, 5 Mar (HDB). **LD**: 16 Apr (3), Lick Creek Marsh (Sgmn Co) (HDB); 13 Apr (12), UCCA (KM); 12 Apr (pr), JP (PC, m.ob.).

Brewers Blackbird
EA: 25 Feb, Urbana (RC); 17 Mar (2 males), Nipper Wildlife Area (Sgmn Co) (HDB); 21 Mar (9), IBSP (AS). **MC**: **922**, Clinton & Bond Cos — 22, Road 1500N (Clinton Co); 300, Stolletown Road (Clinton Co); 200, Raven Road (Bond Co); 400, Hookdale Road (Bond Co), 18 Mar (DK) — **new record IL high count** topping last springs record high of 720 birds in these counties; 45, Union Co, 29 Mar (KM); 20, Sgmn Co, 6 Apr (HDB); 9 (males), two miles se of New Philadelphia (McDonough Co), 7 Apr (LLH). **LD**: 19 Apr (7), Sang.L (HDB); 16 Apr, Monroe Co (JPZ, FH).

Common Grackle
EA: 20 Feb (influx), Urbana (RC); 28 Feb, Sgmn Co (HDB); 7 Mar (male), JP (PC, BH). **MC**: **100,000**, Carl.C, 24 Mar (DK) — **record spring season high count for IL**; **50,000**, Sgmn Co, 24 Mar (HDB); 1515, Iroquois Co, 29 Mar (DFS); 700, Evanston, 7 Apr (EW); 398, JP, 6 Apr (PC, BH). **LD**: 16 May (8 migrants), JP (PC); 5 May (decrease), Sgmn Co (HDB).

Brown-headed Cowbird
EA: 21 Feb, Sgmn Co (HDB); 13 Mar, Lyons Wds (Lake Co) (SH); 14 Mar (5), JP (PC). **MC**: **30,000**, Carl.C, 24 Mar (DK) — **record spring season high count for IL**; **10,000**, Sgmn Co, 24 Mar (HDB); 565, Evanston, 7 Apr (EW); 390, Iroquois Co, 29 Mar (DFS). **LD**: 5 May (35), JP (PC, SC); 3 Apr (decrease), Sgmn Co (HDB). **Albino**: 22 Mar, Sgmn Co (HDB)

Orchard Oriole
EA: **13 Apr**, Jackson Co (KM) — **record early IL arrival** by one day; 22 Apr (male), Urbana (RC); 26 Apr (2 males), Nipper Wildlife Area (Sgmn Co) (HDB); 28 Apr (male), five miles w of Colchester (McDonough Co) (LLH); 29 Apr (2), Nelson L Marsh (Kane Co) (RR, NB); 30 Apr (2), Montrose (GW); 30 Apr (ad. male), JP (DJJ). **MC**: **21**, Mahomet (Champaign Co), 5 May (RC); 16, LShel, 28 Apr (RC). **LD**: 10 Jun, JP (PC); 3 Jun, Rainbow Beach, Chi (DFS).

Baltimore Oriole
EA: **13 Apr**, Massac Co (FB); 21 Apr (male), Sgmn Co (HDB); **24 Apr**, Bull Valley (McHenry Co) (DF) — **record early arrival for n IL** by one day; 26 Apr (male), JP (WS et al.).**MC**: **72**, Evanston, 15 May (EW, JE) — second highest non-SBC count for state; 32, Carl.C, 5 May (DK); 30+, LShel, 28 Apr (RC). **LD**: 10 Jun, JP (PC); 3 Jun, Rainbow Beach, Chi (DFS).

Purple Finch
EA: 19 Mar (4, at feeders), Massac Co (FB); 28 Mar (imm. male), JP (PC). **LD**: 1 May, JP (PC); 29 Apr (3), McDowell Grove FP (Du Page Co) (UG); 25 Apr, Adams Sanctuary, Spfld (HDB); 5 Apr, Heron Pond (Johnson Co) (KM). Very scant numbers, with high counts to only 4 (as above), and otherwise three at various sites, 29 Mar-29 Apr.

House Finch
EA: 30 Mar (6), JP (PC). **MC**: 64 (mostly on territory), Evanston, 5 May (EW, TB); 61 (migrating), Evanston, 7 Apr (EW); 52, Westchester (Cook Co), 15 Apr (DFS); 25, Mermet L, 7 Mar (KM). **LD**: 23 Apr (2), JP (PC).

Red Crossbill
EA: 10 Mar (female), IBSP (AS). **MC**: 30+, Sand Ridge SF (Mason Co), late Apr -early May (fide R&SBj). **LD**: 5 May (24), Sand Ridge SF (Mason Co) (R&SBj). No other reports.

Pine Siskin
EA: 7 Apr, Urbana (RC); 23 Apr, Boone Co (AB). **MC**: 4, M.Arb, 3 Mar (UG). No other reports.

American Goldfinch
EA: 1 Apr (increase), Sgmn Co (HDB); 7 Apr (8), Evanston (EW); 18 Apr (4), Grant P (DFS). **MC**: 80, Carl.C, 21 Apr (DK); 74, Sgmn Co, 21 Apr (HDB); 67, Evanston, 9 May (EW); 55, Union Co, 13 Apr (KM). **LD**: 5 May (decrease), Sgmn Co (HDB). Migration limits vague this spring, but biggest movement at Sgmn Co occurred 18-23 Apr (HDB).

House Sparrow
MC: 360, Westchester (Cook Co), 15 Apr (DFS); 200, Carl.C, 11 Mar (DK). Few counts reported.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow
MC: 43, Sgmn Co, 3 Mar (HDB); 7, HL, 19 May (KM). **Others**: 5 May, Pike Co (*JF). Little data.

EXOTICS

Trumpeter Swan
Four overwintered at Hawk Valley (Sgmn Co), through 1 Mar (HDB).

Budgerigar
11 May (green morph), JP (PC).

REVIEW PENDING
The following reports are pending Illinois Ornithological Records Committee review and must be considered hypothetical at this time, despite the fact that some (but not all) of the reports are amply documented. Their status will be updated in *Meadowlark* in a forthcoming IORC report, including citations for documenting observers of accepted records. Most undocumented reports of review-list species are omitted from this summary.

Tricolored Heron
Four reports, all documented. **EA**: 21 Apr, L Vermilion (Vermilion Co); 23 Apr, Linc.P; 7-11 May, Pontoon Beach (Madison Co). **LD**: 30 May (2nd-year), L Spfld — third county record. See photo of Lincoln Park bird.

Glossy Ibis
One report, 7-20 May (possibly 2 birds on 13 May), Pontoon Beach (Madison Co)

Black Vulture
One documented extralimital report: 6 Apr, Marine Pt, **L Spfld** — third county record.

King Eider
LD: 11 Mar (female, overwintering since 6 Dec), L Spfld.

Swainsons Hawk
No reports received from this species relict breeding grounds in Kane & McHenry Cos; four extralimital reports involving five birds, but only one documentation (from Cook Co — an SBC record pending IORC review).

Ferruginous Hawk
LD: 14 Apr (subad.), Knox Co.

Whimbrel
LD: 27 May, Carl.C — the only report.

Ruff
LD: 11-14 May (female), Carl.F — 25th IL spring record.

Eurasian Collared-Dove
MC: 3, Newton (Jasper Co), 24 Mar. **Others**: Reported as ones and twos without documentation from four sites, 11 Mar - 28 May, and documented on this years SBC at seven additional sites. Documentations are pending IORC review, as numerous past reports of this species have not adequately eliminated Ringed Turtle-Dove. None reported from n IL this season.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE
EA: 16-17 Apr, Penfield (Champaign Co) — **fifth IL record** (all since 1998); third Champaign Co record.

Says phoebe
LD: 11 May, Montrose — tenth IL record, and only the third for spring, pending acceptance of a sight record from spring 2000. See photo.

Painted Bunting
EA: 10 May (**2 males on territory**), East St. Louis (St. Clair Co) through end of period. **MC**: **3** (2 males, 1 female), same site, 17 May. **LD**: 28 May (female), Urbana — **first confirmed Champaign Co record**, pending IORC acceptance. **Remarks**: **Sixth & seventh IL records, second IL breeding record, record IL high count for adult birds. Nesting** at site where first IL nesting was confirmed in 2000.

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Say's Phoebe. Montrose, Chicago. Cook County. 11 May 2001. Photo by Kanae Hirabayashi.

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